

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

LAW-ABIDING.]

Societies and Branches in the Union 561.

[NON-PARTY]

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[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

The Dockers' Union and Women's Suffrage.

The following resolution has been sent through Mr. Ben Tillett to the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage, to be forwarded to the Prime Minister:—

"This Executive Council of the Dock, Wharf, Riverside, and General Workers' Union pledges itself to support the women of the country in their efforts to obtain recognition as citizens, and calls upon the Government to include women as voters in any amendment or addition to the Registration Act."

A Short-Sighted Policy.

The question of women's wages is, in many trades, no less important to men than to women; but the majority of trade unions do not seem to have realised this. Is there, at the back of their minds, the idea that the women will be got rid of by Act of Parliament after the war? The surest way to prevent undercutting is to admit women to trade unions; but some trades still refuse to do so, the Grocers' Union giving as a reason, at their annual conference last week, that their membership would be an obstacle to the redemption of the pledges made to reinstate assistants serving in the war. Mr. J. N. Reading said that it was positively ludicrous at this time of day to talk about keeping women out of a trade union; and Mr. W. J. Stacey maintained that such an action "would be tantamount to committing suicide"; but by a large majority the resolution refusing to admit women was actually carried!

Something for Nothing.

"The ordinary sources of supply of women's clerical labour have been used up for some time," says a writer in *The Times* of August 3rd. "Girls living at home in London and the suburbs have been glad to earn a guinea a week; in addition to these, a number of well-to-do girls have come up to London with allowances from home to eke out their salaries. Now, however, it seems that this supply has also come to an end, and if there is in actual fact a real dearth of women clerks, the Government must either raise the general standard of wages very materially or provide hostels where their employees can live decently on what they earn. There are not many girls who care to spend at least 30s. a week on uncomfortable lodgings and unappetising meals in order to earn 25s., however keenly they may desire to be patriotic. The easier way is to remain at home in the country with plenty of fresh air and good food and time for golf and tennis, and appease conscience by putting in occasional work at the local hospital, war depôt, or canteen. . . . It would seem that all those who want to work and can afford to are now fully employed, and the remainder are either unable to live on the pay they can command, or frankly do not want to work." It is curious that, while the demand for women clerks exceeds the supply, the Government should continue to offer such low rates of pay. The cost of living increases; women are so continually told that after the war their services will no longer be required, that they are beginning to look ahead. The Civil Service Commissioners, says the Secretary of the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, hardly appear "to be aware that the best women in the Government service are leaving it every day."

Who Will be Ready When the Rush Comes?

The educated woman is in demand for V.A.D. work, and for munitions; but the demand for educated women for the land for the duration of the war (not only for holiday work) is likely to be enormous. By the end of September large numbers of men will be called up, and the situation is likely to be acute.

The time is just long enough—six weeks, or thereabouts, for training—before the rush will come. The training farms of the National Land Service Corps can deal with sixty or seventy pupils per week and guarantee situations afterwards on farms. Who will be ready?

Drink and National Efficiency.

"War has forced the drink problem into the forefront of national questions," says Dr. Kelynack, in his preface to a collection of valuable articles on this subject which he has recently edited.* "For long," he continues, "serious students of social subjects have insisted on the importance of recognising alcohol as a deranging and deteriorating factor in the life of the State, but it has been left to these days of unexampled stress and strain to demonstrate to men and women generally the seriousness of the menace existing from the widespread prevalence of alcoholism within our dominions. . . . Now the great adventure and experiment of war, with all its circumstances, conditions, and effects, has concentrated attention on the drink problem, and has already in great measure confirmed the conclusions of scientific workers."

The early chapters deal with the pathology and psychology of alcoholism; its effects on the individual and the race. In an article on "Alcoholism and National Efficiency," Dr. Robert Armstrong-Jones (Lecturer on mental diseases to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and consulting physician in mental diseases to the military forces in London), brings a severe indictment against the Government for its failure to take adequate measures for dealing with the drink evil, as it has been urged to do from the pulpit, in Parliament, and in the press. The question, Dr. Armstrong-Jones points out, has become an international one, to which other countries seem more alive than we :—

"It is stated that there is fully six years' supply of home-made spirit in this country, and one and a-half years' supply of foreign spirit at the present moment, and if the spirit consumption is to be kept down there is no urgency for working the distilleries, at any rate during the war, and more especially as 73 per cent. of the barley used for distilling and brewing is imported; also as over 386,000 persons are being employed in the spirit business alone—of whom more than half are under the age of thirty-five, and 85,000 are unmarried—this industry could well be stopped or modified. It is natural to assume that many of these persons would find a more patriotic occupation elsewhere."

"Since the war began the question of drink has become one of international interest. Russia had foreseen that this must be so, and early in the war decreed the total prohibition of the national spirit, vodka, which has furnished her people with one means of safety for her military efficiency, her national resources, and home life. Not only has this radical prohibition in Russia been successful, but the further prohibition of all alcoholic liquors for all ranks of the services has been enacted. This action has considerably increased the savings bank deposits and has also greatly improved the discipline of the troops. The example of Russia has inspired France to prohibit absinthe, and these radical measures excited no opposition among the general public and very little among the trade, whilst the legal measures decreeing this prohibition passed both Houses of the Legislature as a wave of patriotism against pocket. General Joffre has, moreover, prohibited all liquor, except that issued officially, to all of his troops, because he considers that to diminish the moral and material strength of his army is a crime against national defence! In Austria the military authorities have forbidden the serving of troops or of individual soldiers with intoxicating liquors at railway stations, and early this year, 1915, orders were issued by the civil authorities that no more barley should be used for brewing. In Germany neither wine nor beer was permitted to be supplied to the troops during mobilisation at or near any railway station, whilst special orders as to drink in the field were also issued. In some of the provincial Governments of the German Empire the power to close all spirit shops was allowed, and only 40 per cent. of the average quantity of beer was permitted to be brewed, so as to preserve the barley for breadmaking. The Government of Italy has also joined the international campaign against spirits by altogether banning the sale of absinthe."

Yet so far, in this country, the only approach to prohibition or control has been a restriction in the hours of sale, and the control of the sale of liquor by an Order in Council in certain areas. "Inquiries," says Dr. Armstrong-Jones, "are now being made of the Medical Officers of Health for London, and their reports are entirely on the side of continuing restrictions for the sake of order in the streets, better homes, and the diminution of drunkenness; particularly noticeable has been the great improvement in the behaviour of soldiers and sailors themselves. In fact, nothing but good results have attended these compulsory restrictions, and it is earnestly hoped that the Defence of the Realm (Liquor Control) Regulations, 1916, will be the initiation of a similar permanent scheme throughout the land."

Far from the expenditure on intoxicating liquors having decreased since the beginning of the war, it has actually risen in this country. From August, 1913, to July, 1914, the total expenditure on drink, according to the table drawn up by Mr. George B. Wilson, was £152,913,000, as compared with £156,176,000 from August, 1914, to July, 1915. This increase is partly due to higher prices; but not altogether, for while the consumption of beer fell in the given period by 13·2 per cent.,

that of spirits (the more expensive and harmful form of liquor) rose by 6·2 per cent.

Not only has the sale of intoxicants a bad effect in lowering the efficiency of the nation, but it is also a great waste of the country's financial resources and of its supply of food and labour. 73 per cent. of the barley used in distilling and brewing is imported, says Dr. Armstrong Jones, thus adding to our indebtedness to foreign countries at a time when it is essential to keep this to the lowest possible level, in order to maintain the rate of exchange.

The following table shows the waste of foodstuffs in brewing and distilling :—

	Brewing.	Distilling.
Malt (bushels)	43,670,000	7,824,000
Unmalted grain (bushels)	79,000	9,700,000
Rice and maize (cwt.)	1,217,000	13,500
Sugar and equivalents (cwt.)	2,644,000	996,000
Hops (lbs.)	51,500,000	—

With regard to the waste of labour, Dr. Armstrong-Jones states that over 360,000 persons are being employed in the spirit business alone, of whom more than half are under the age of thirty-five, and 85,000 are unmarried,* and he maintains that the industry should either be stopped or modified, so that those employed in it might find more patriotic occupation elsewhere. In addition to those actually engaged in the manufacture and sale of drink, a large number are engaged in other capacities in connection with the trade, such as that of carter, a class of man who is urgently needed in connection with the transport of goods of national importance.

In the brewing trade 10,200 additional women have been taken on since July, 1914, and 2,500 in the distilling trade, while certain important industries, among them the woollen and worsted, hosiery, linen, cotton, and shirt-making trades report a shortage of female labour.

Some practical suggestions for counteracting the lure of alcohol are made by the Right Hon. Sir Thomas P. Whittaker, M.P., in his chapter on "Alcoholism and Legislation." One of these is disinterested management. "The trade," he says, "exists to sell as much drink as possible, and the whole of its organisation and arrangements have that object in view." He continues :—

"Clearly, it would be an enormous gain if the direct personal financial interest of the liquor trade were eliminated, and all pushing of the sale of drink and all inducements to the seller to make the laws were abolished. That can only be done by taking the trade out of the hands of those who now conduct it and placing it under the control of persons whose only object would be to promote the public well-being, and who would have no interest in pushing the sale or conniving at breaches of the law—that is to say, by placing it under disinterested management."

Another means suggested for reducing excessive drinking would be the provision of counter-attractions for social resort, where people can easily and cheaply meet their friends, hear the news, and spend their time.

Mrs. Scharlieb contributes a chapter on "Alcoholism in Relation to Women and Children," in which the terrible effects of maternal intemperance are clearly shown; but in the

* *The Drink Problem of To-day.* Edited by T. N. Kelynack. (Methuen. 7s. 6d.)

(3) "*Method of Appointing Representatives.*—Societies shall be entitled to appoint representatives in the following proportions: Over 100 but under 1,000 members, one representative; over 1,000 but under 10,000 members, two representatives. One additional representative for each additional 10,000 members, or part of 10,000.

(4) "*Objects.*—The objects of the Consultative Committee shall be:—

(1) To collect and communicate to each other information of mutual interest respecting the activities of the constituent Societies, or the political situation generally.

(2) To consult together over questions of future policy or methods of action.

(5) "The Consultative Committee shall have no executive powers. It may, if it desires, recommend joint action to its constituent bodies, but such action, if decided on by them, must not be carried out by the Consultative Committee, though it may be by a Committee composed wholly or partly of the same members.

(6) "*Sub-Committees.*—The Consultative Committee may form Sub-Committees, with power to add to their numbers, for collecting information for consideration of the Consultative Committee.

(7) "*Meetings* shall be held every alternate month. Special meetings may be called in the interval by the Chairman and Hon. Secretary, or by request of any five members representing not less than three of the constituent Societies. At least one week's notice shall be given of every meeting whenever possible.

(8) "Each Society shall pay a fee of 7s. 6d. per annum for each representative to which it is entitled, to cover expenses of postage, &c.

(9) "The Consultative Committee shall, at its first meeting, elect for the year a Chairman and Hon. Secretary, who shall also act as Treasurer.

(10) "That the proceedings of the Consultative Committee shall be confidential."

The seventeen Societies forming the Committee are:—

The Church League for Women's Suffrage.

Free Church League for Women's Suffrage.

Actresses' Franchise League.

Irish Women's Suffrage Federation.

United Suffragists.

New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage.

Liberal Women's Suffrage Union.

Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.

Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

Scottish Churches' League for Women's Suffrage.

National Industrial and Professional Women's Suffrage Society.

Jewish League for Women's Suffrage.

Friends' League for Women's Suffrage.

Scottish University Women's Suffrage Union.

London Graduates' Union for Women's Suffrage.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

Registration and Electoral Reform.

A LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

In reply to a request from fourteen Constitutional Societies (members of the Consultative Committee of Constitutional Women's Suffrage Societies) to receive a deputation, the Prime Minister asked for a statement in writing of the case they wished to present. The statement was accordingly drawn up at a meeting of representatives of the Societies, on August 4th, and forwarded to Mr. Asquith at once.

In acknowledging the statement, the Prime Minister's Secretary writes that it has had "his serious consideration."

SIR,—While much regretting that you are unable to see us personally, we now, as suggested by your letter of the 1st inst., have the honour to submit the following statement of the principal points which we desired to lay before you.

We desire to make it plain that this issue is not of our raising, but it has been forced upon us by the declared intention of the Government to deal with questions of registration, possibly including electoral reform.

If these intentions are limited to ensuring that men who are already on the Parliamentary Register should not be disqualified by reason of absence on war service, we should not oppose such legislation.

But if the proposals made are such as to establish a new voting qualification, or by means of changes in the period of residence to add a number of new names to the register, then we feel that our own issue is inextricably involved, and that we cannot stand aside. Our reasons for holding this view are, briefly, as follows:—

1. Parliament does not lightly touch the thorny question of electoral reform, and if dealt with now a fresh reconsideration may be indefinitely postponed.

2. The inclusion of great numbers of new men voters intensifies the injustice and anomaly of the exclusion of all women.

3. The injustice of such exclusion—always great and for long keenly felt—will become more intolerable than ever after the war, when the problem of the readjustment of men's and women's labour has to be faced. It is impossible to ignore the fact that the entry of large numbers of women into skilled

occupations hitherto closed to them, and the discovery by employers of the great value of their labour, may possibly produce an apparent clashing of interests between the sexes, and that in the solution of the problems that will arise the aid of Parliament may be invoked. It is contrary to every principle of British justice, as well as of democratic government, that such an issue should be dealt with by a body upon which two of the three parties to the dispute—employers and the men workers—are fully represented, but over which the women workers have no control.

Upon this and other problems of reconstruction after the war, we claim the right of women to a direct influence upon Parliament.

If a new qualification is to be established based on services in the war then the claim of women to share in such a qualification cannot be ignored. The services they have rendered to the country have been so amply acknowledged both by the Ministers mainly responsible for the direct conduct of the war and by those responsible for the maintenance of the country's industry, that we need not labour this point. We cannot believe that the compliments that have been so paid to women have been empty words.

But there is another body of women who deserve, we think, even better of the country than the munition and industrial workers and field labourers, and they are the women who have given their husbands and sons ungrudgingly to its defence.

Our organisations remain unweakened, and our belief in our cause, inspired as it has always been by our desire for fuller service, has only deepened in intensity during this time of trial. In the settlement of the problems that lie in the future we claim our share, and we claim that women have proved themselves worthy of it.—We have, sir, the honour to be,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed)—

MARY WHITTY, Actresses' Franchise League.

FFLORENS ROCH, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.

F. SHEWELL COOPER, Church League for Women's Suffrage.

MAUD SELBORNE, Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

JANE E. STRICKLAND, The Church League for Women's Suffrage.

J. SPRING RICE, Irish Women's Suffrage Federation.

EVA McLAREN, Liberal Women's Forward Union.

HERBERT JACOBS, Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

EVELYN M. L. ATKINSON, National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

ADELINE M. CHAPMAN, New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage.

ANNIE G. FERRIER, Scottish Churches League for Women's Suffrage.

FRANCES H. SIMSON, Scottish University Woman Suffrage Union.

BERTHA BREWSTER, United Suffragists.

OBITUARY.

Captain Charles Edward Coursolles Jones, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, killed in action on July 4th, was the elder son of Mrs. Charles Jones, of Jesmond Hill, Pangbourne. His whole family have ever been ardent supporters of Women's Suffrage, and his mother and sisters are well-known for their never-tiring work for the cause. He himself was a member of the London Society and always showed the greatest enthusiasm for the cause. He married in 1911 Margery Garrett, a niece of Mrs. Fawcett, and leaves two small sons. Mrs. Garrett Jones has worked for the London Society for some years.

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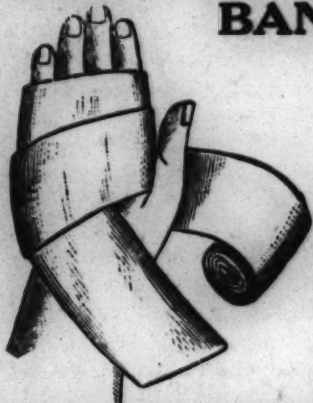
The wider recognition of Women's Contribution to the Affairs of Church and State is one of the vital problems constantly dealt with.

Among those who contribute are Mrs. Creighton, Mrs. Lake Paget, Miss A. Maudsley, Miss Ruth Rouse, Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, Mrs. Fember Reeves, &c. A Specimen Copy will be sent to readers of "The Common Cause" on application. You should find THE CHALLENGE on sale at all bookstalls, but if you have any difficulty or would prefer it sent direct, a copy will be posted to you for 13 weeks if you send 1s. 6d. to THE MANAGER, THE CHALLENGE, EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, LONDON, W.C.

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A New Standpoint.

A French essayist who has written a series of vivid little sketches of life in France in war time* says that though the men in the trenches, through mutual help, did for a time reach "complete forgetfulness of mine and thine," and fraternity ceased to be a dream and became a reality; this unity has been reached by the men only, and not by the women of France. "Frenchwomen, great ladies and women of the upper and middle classes, whose zeal has led them into the hospitals, have perhaps thought that they, in their domain, were sharing in the national unity, and following the example of the army. Yet what have these women done," asks M. Descaves, "in the way of sharing, I do not say necessities, but even their superfluities with the women of the people? . . . They have nursed the poor wounded as though they were their brothers, but they have recognised brothers only—not sisters!" They would be ladies still, rather than Frenchwomen, and so have missed a priceless opportunity. They give alms and patronage instead of fellowship, and keep at a distance from other women. Social cleavages have been deepened and widened when it would have been easy to throw a bridge across the gulf. So, at least, it seems to the author of these war-time vignettes, who complains that Frenchwomen of the leisured classes have not been doing their part as builders-up of the nation.

For us in Great Britain, reading this piece of thoughtful criticism of Frenchwomen by a Frenchman, the first thought is: What an unfamiliar standard this is by which M. Descaves is appraising his countrywomen! He says, in effect, "As between woman and woman, you are not performing your part, and yet the solidarity of women is vitally necessary for the good of us all. To fail in love toward your neighbour is to endanger the commonwealth, for only on love and understanding can we build securely." It is nothing less than a revolution in thought. For how long have the "duties of the home" been declared in England as in France to be the whole duty of woman; and if any woman wished to look beyond her own four walls, her activities should be restricted to "charity"—which begins at home and ends in patronage. It would not be wonderful if a discipline and training which positively inculcated segregation in the home and behind class barriers, should produce women "wrapped up in their own and parish concerns," purblind to the national aspects of their problems.

Taken in the same connection, it is interesting to note how an Englishman criticises Englishwomen, in an article on the Elements of Reconstruction in *The Times*. "The lamentable superficiality," he writes, "of feminine education in a community in which women take an unusually large share in political discussions, party conflicts, and the like," is noted as a weakness in the "ostensibly educated classes," who contribute thought and will to the State. The criticism is undeniably just. The efforts of more than one generation of workers, chiefly women, to give a less "superficial" education to the rising generation have hardly availed against the deeply-rooted, chiefly masculine, suspicion of a thorough education for girls, while to the women of the present generation an effective share in public life is still denied. Where there is no responsibility, public questions are apt to be treated as if they were academic. It is impossible, in fact, to learn to swim on dry land. And to expect grip and grasp of national problems from those who are practically forbidden to handle them, is to be blind to the past. Essentially, perhaps, both critics mean the same thing, though the Frenchman writes with a deeper spiritual insight. The new standard of citizenship is being applied to those who hitherto have not been acknowledged as citizens. Are we reaching a new standpoint?

* *La Maison Anxieuse.* Par Lucien Descaves. (Paris: Cres, f. 1.75.)

The Next Step in Housekeeping.

I.—WHAT IS WRONG?

By MISS CLEMENTINA BLACK.

Domestic service appears in many successive census returns as the largest industry of British women. Yet the heading covers probably less than half the total of women engaged in domestic industry. Hundreds of wives do all the work of their homes; hundreds of others superintend, direct, and take part in it. A whole army of spinsters, wage-earners, and others, prepare some or all of their daily meals and keep in order their own dwellings. Altogether, probably not less than half, and quite possibly as many as two-thirds, of all the women in Great Britain devote a part of their days to the occupation of housekeeping. Yet—or rather, perhaps, therefore—this vast industry is not, on the whole, carried on successfully. Employers have been bewailing for at least two generations the increasing difficulty of getting their business properly performed, while the better young women of the industrial class express their opinion by declining, in ever larger numbers, to enter the employment at all.

When in any calling, the general dissatisfaction is evidently greater than in most other callings, we naturally look for the cause in some condition or conditions peculiar to the occupation. Considering domestic life from this point of view, we at once discern three special features: (a) a somewhat close personal relation between employer and employed, carried, in many instances, as far as that community of residence now outgrown in most other callings; (b) a considerable complexity of duties, combined with a comparative laxity of definition, either as to the limits of those duties or as to periods of work; (c) a backward stage of industrial development, the trade being still carried on in private dwellings by isolated or few workers, without the advantages either of machinery on a large scale or of much division of labor.

In all these respects the domestic industry occupies a position left behind by most wage-earning employments. Until the middle of the eighteenth century, or later, apprentices, journeymen, and journeywomen lived contentedly in the families of their employers; nowadays "living-in" survives in but few trades, and where it does, the conditions are more frequently those of an institution than those of a private household. Residence under the roof of an employer has, in fact, died out of our social customs, and is no longer acceptable to either party. That servants prefer to live at home is evident from the comparative ease with which a non-resident situation can be filled. Nor is it really pleasant to a mistress to have living in her house a woman whose upbringing and outlook are entirely different from her own. How would any business man bear to have his carpenter, or his plumber, or even his trusted head clerk living in? That so many Englishwomen manage to get on reasonably well together in a relation so difficult and so exceptional is really a remarkable evidence of good sense and good temper. The strange thing is not that friction should sometimes occur, but that it should ever fail to occur.

It is the more remarkable because the requirements of employers have, during the last twenty or thirty years, become much more exacting. Our taste has grown more fastidious, our sanitarianism more laborious. More intelligence, more culture and adaptability are demanded from modern servants at the very time when the better members of the class from which service is recruited are steadily turning away from the occupation. Thus, while the demand is for a finer type of service, the supply is of a coarser.

Among educated women, on the other hand, there has been a great revival of interest in domestic principles and practice, so that those critics who attribute friction between mistress and maid to the mistress's ignorance of household details are beholding the present in terms of the past. Nowadays friction arises at least as frequently from her familiarity with them, which impels her to struggle vainly against the lower standards of her handmaid.

Upon the servant the discomfort of diverging standards presses no less heavily; she does not distinguish the clean from the half-washed tea-cup, nor the water which really boils from the water which nearly boils. Insistence upon such particularities seems to her idle fussiness, and passes over, leaving no trace behind. How, then, can she, in the consecrated phrase, give satisfaction, and how can she feel satisfaction amid the atmosphere of suppressed irritation which must seem to her so unjust and so unreasonable? Who can venture to say that she is wrong in abandoning such a position?

In a factory or a workshop, tasks and hours are defined with a precision impossible, under our present system, for domestic servants; and it is evident that the orderly, routine processes of manufacture, performed among companions, are more acceptable to most working women than the more various, but also more interrupted, duties of domestic service performed in less gregarious conditions and amid surroundings regarded as less cheerful. To complain or repine about this preference is useless. If the industry is to reach a satisfactory state, the terms of it must become such as the workers do not dislike. Otherwise the problem in its present form will come to an end owing to a total disappearance of workers.

Some people, indeed, think that in that direction lies the exit from the *impasse*, and that the true solution of the difficulty in getting good servants is to leave off trying, and to undertake one's own housework, applying to it all those simplifications and improvements of method which educated people, dealing unhampered with their own affairs, may be expected to devise. This is the thesis expounded by Lady Frazer in her instructive and amusing little volume, *First Aid to the Servantless*. She leaves any candid reader convinced that the servantless household is likely to be well served, and her easy, persuasive style glides over serious objections that rise to the surface when such a reader begins to think things over. To begin with, the remedy is unsuited to two large groups of educated women, (a) those who are earning their livelihood in some arduous profession, and cannot therefore spare time, thought, and strength to carry on another simultaneously; and (b) those who are bearing children. Evidently a domestic organisation resting solely on the shoulders of the servantless wife, must suffer interruption for a period of weeks every time that she becomes a mother. How is the gap to be filled? No ordinary servant could carry on a system demanding the nicest adjustment of means and the highest finish of execution, and a sufficiency of available spinster relatives cannot, in these days, be postulated. The probability is that the family will suffer great discomfort, and the mother great anxiety; many possessions will be lost, destroyed, or spoiled; the immaculate cleanness maintained by intelligent foresight and ceaseless attention will be reduced to dirt and disorder, and the mistress of the house, on returning to her accustomed round, will be faced by a labour of Hercules. Something of this kind does actually occur in thousands of working-class households every time a child is born, notwithstanding the fact that almost every working-class mother resumes her domestic toil dangerously soon.

The objection arising from the recurring absences of mothers might possibly be met, if servantless households became the rule, by the organisation of a body of highly-trained substitutes; but another and more insuperable one would still remain—that indicated in an earlier paragraph under (c). Even a whole population of educated, competent women, working each alone in her own home, would still be engaged in a primitive and undeveloped trade, lacking the advantages of combined industry, machinery on a large scale, and the economy of production that depends upon such developments. While other trades have passed from the dwelling-house to the factory, and from the isolated worker to the group, the domestic industry still remains in scattered homes, whence inventions do not spread from one to another, where better machinery can be adopted but slowly, and no general standard of competence can arise. If Mrs. A. finds out a better way of cooking porridge or of cleaning a window, it does not travel to Mrs. B., the public does not profit, and the improvement is not handed on to the next generation. Skill is acquired, passed on, or not passed on, to a few assistants, is forgotten, and has to be acquired afresh; nothing goes into a common fund, and permanent improvements can only come in from the outside world, with its open markets. The result is a vast, continuous stream of waste—waste of labour, waste of time, waste of money, waste in consumption, and an infinite, unnecessary reduplication of tools and processes.

Even if servants were as generally efficient as they are generally incapable, if the food and cooking in the average British household were mostly good, instead of being mostly indifferent, if the whole system were comfortable and convenient to every person concerned, it would still be the duty of good citizens to ask themselves whether they had any right to carry on their affairs in a manner so disproportionately extravagant.

(To be continued.)

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:

MISS EVELYN ATKINSON.

MRS. OLIVER STRACHEY (Parliamentary)

Hon. Treasurer:

MRS. AUERBACH.

Secretary:

MISS HELEN WRIGHT.

Office: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone—4673 Vic. & 4674 Vic.

Suffrage Deputation to Lord Robert Cecil and Mr. Bonar Law.

A deputation from the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies was received on August 3rd at the Colonial Office by Mr. Bonar Law and Lord Robert Cecil. The deputation, which consisted of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, Countess Brassey, Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. Annot Robinson, and Miss Eleanor Rathbone, desired to make clear the attitude of the N.U.W.S.S. towards any proposed alteration in the Franchise and Registration Laws. Mrs. Fawcett emphasised the fact that Women Suffragists were prepared to stand aside if such alterations merely included the replacing on the register of men who had lost their votes owing to absence on war service. If, however, a new basis of the franchise were contemplated, they considered that women should be included. If the vote were given for service to the State, the claim of women could not be overlooked.

Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Annot Robinson, as representatives of women in industry, laid stress on the fact that these women were helping to earn the wealth of the country; that the old prejudice against women's suffrage amongst working men had completely disappeared; that in the dislocation of industry following the war there would, unfortunately, be a certain clashing of interests between the sexes, in which the one sex only would have the advantage of being able to use political pressure, and that North-country women are eagerly looking forward to the vote to help them in the work of reconstruction after the war.

Miss Rathbone pointed out that, if the Overseas Dominions were given a voice in the making of peace terms, the women of Australia and New Zealand would have representation, and the women of England would not. She also spoke of the widows of sailors and soldiers, who, having given their men, were now left as heads of households, but without any representation.

Mr. Bonar Law asked whether the proposal of Suffragists to stand aside if voters were merely replaced on the register would also apply if any alteration were introduced which would reduce the period of residence, say, to two or three months. Mrs. Fawcett pointed out that that raised quite another point. Such a change would add a large number of new voters to the register. She felt that it must be made clear that the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies had not given, and could not give, any undertaking to stand aside under those circumstances.

Lord Robert Cecil said he agreed with Mrs. Fawcett, such an alteration would mean a very large addition to the register, and would be a long step towards manhood suffrage. He himself would not assent to any alteration in the Franchise or in registration which substantially increased the number of voters unless it included some measure of enfranchisement for women.

LETTER TO THE RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT GREY, K.G., M.P.

MY LORD,—The question of a Registration Bill and of a possible extension of the basis of the franchise is being widely discussed in the Press and elsewhere, and it is clear that it must soon occupy the attention of the Cabinet.

We venture, therefore, to beg you to receive a small deputation from this Society, introduced by Mrs. Henry Fawcett, to lay before you some aspects of the Women's Suffrage question, which must inevitably be considered in connection with any alteration of the present franchise laws.

We are aware that your time is very fully occupied, but we nevertheless venture to approach you in the belief that you do not fail to recognise the great importance of this question.

We are addressing Lord Robert Cecil on the same subject, in the hope that an interview might be arranged with you both at any time in the course of next week which may be convenient to you.—Yours truly,

(Signed) VIOLET EUSTACE,

Hon. Secretary, Parliamentary Sub-Committee.

July 28th, 1916.

DEAR MADAM,—I am desired by Lord Grey of Fallodon to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of July 28th.

Lord Grey regrets that the extreme pressure on his time renders it impossible for him to receive a deputation from the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

His own personal view is that the time and attention of the Government should not be diverted from those things which are essential to the conduct of the war, and that if questions affecting the franchise, important as these are, have to be dealt with during the war, it should be by persons who are not directly responsible for the daily conduct of the war. He believes that if this precaution is not observed the safety and future existence of this country will be imperilled.

But whenever or however the question of extending the basis of the franchise is dealt with, Lord Grey will, as far as his personal influence can be used, contend that enfranchisement of women should be considered and included.—Yours truly,

(Signed) ERIC DRUMMOND.

Foreign Office, August 1st, 1916.

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1915	1,880	14	3	Mrs. Badger	10	0	0
Received from July 31st to August 5th, 1916:—				Miss E. J. Mann	10	0	0
				Miss A. Bateson	5	0	0
				Miss Charlotte Spicer	10	6	0
				Mrs. Tait	1	0	0
				Miss M. Puller	3	13	0
				E. M. A.	1	1	0
				Mrs. S. Hess	1	0	0
				Miss Margaret S. Ker	1	1	0
				Mr. Hugh R. Rathbone	2	10	0
				Mrs. Hugh R. Rathbone	2	10	0
				Mrs. M. G. Thoday	1	1	0
				Miss M. C. Martineau	2	2	0
				Mrs. G. C. Thompson	10	0	0
				Mrs. Percy Thompson	2	0	0
				Mr. J. Ritchie, J.P.	1	0	0
				Mrs. C. W. Grahame	10	0	0
				Mrs. Jones	10	0	0
				Mrs. J. Lilley Smith	2	0	0
				Mrs. Gordon McArthur	1	1	0
				Mrs. M. M. Hermon	2	2	0
				Mrs. Edward Davis	2	2	0
				Mr. J. H. M. Rintoul	1	0	0
				Mr. Harry R. Lewis	1	1	0
				Mrs. Edward Browne	1	0	0
				Miss M. L. Huckwell	1	0	0
				Miss Joan Sterling	1	0	0
				Lady Alix Egerton	1	1	0
				Mrs. Lucy Deane Stratfield	5	0	0
				Mrs. A. C. Osler	5	5	0
				Mrs. A. Hartland	2	2	0
				Miss Harriet Spicer	2	2	0
				Mrs. A. S. Ruffell	2	0	0
				Miss A. M. Rhind	2	6	0
				Miss M. M. Gough	10	0	0
				Miss Sarah Booth	2	6	0
				The Misses Miller	2	0	0
				Mrs. C. D. Rackham	10	0	0
				Miss Helena R. Sikes	5	0	0
				Mr. J. Roger Dawson	5	0	0
				Beaconsfield W.S.S.	2	0	0
				Bath W.S.S.	1	1	0
				Mr. Wm. Harbutt	1	1	0
				Miss B. A. Holme	2	0	0
				Lady Onslow	10	0	0
				Miss H. A. Spens	3	0	0
				Mr. Reginald H. Pott	2	10	0
				Miss Mary E. Brailsford	2	0	0
				Miss Augusta M. Reid	2	6	0
				Miss M. L. Mackenzie	5	0	0
				Miss A. J. Musson	5	0	0
				Miss Ethel Robinson	1	1	0
				Miss E. B. Gordon	1	0	0
				Mrs. Browne	3	0	0
				Mrs. W. Barton Worthington	2	2	0
				Miss G. E. Moseley	10	0	0
				Miss Philippa Strachey	2	0	0
				Miss Edith C. Wilson	10	0	0
				Miss E. M. C. Druce	2	0	0
				Mrs. Donald Robertson	10	0	0
				Miss Mary L. Pendered	5	0	0
				Miss Lieth	10	0	0
				Miss Torry	2	0	0
				Miss Mary Payne	5	0	0
				Mrs. Curwen	5	0	0
				Mrs. E. M. Jalland	1	0	0
				Mrs. J. Wycliffe Wilson	10	0	0
				Mr. George Tunncliffe	10	0	0
				Mrs. Hamilton	10	0	0
				Redcar W.S.S.	10	0	0
				Mrs. E. A. Appleton	5	0	0
				Miss E. M. Walker	10	0	0
				Lady Helen Brassey	5	0	0
				Miss Ada Hale	5	0	0
				Miss E. M. Goodrich, M.B.	1	0	0
				Miss Edith Giles	1	0	0
				Miss Lucy E. Mason	2	6	0
				Miss F. Zimmern	10	0	0
				Miss Dorothy C. Peel	5	0	0
				Miss Emily Maude	1	0	0
				Mrs. J. C. Pearson	12	6	0
				Mrs. Torrance	10	0	0
				Miss E. F. Knott	10	0	0
				Mr. W. H. Heath	10	6	0
				Miss Maggie Farrow	2	6	0
				Mrs. William Evans	2	0	0
				Mrs. Eyres	5	0	0
				Mrs. A. B. Joffard	10	0	0
				Winscombe W.S.S.	1	15	0
				Ambleside W.S.S.	3	0	0
				Miss Margaret Harwood	10	0	0
				Mr. Lionel Barnett	1	1	0
				The Hon. Mrs. Wilkinson	5	0	0
				West Riding Federation	5	0	0
				Received for the Scottish Women's Hospital	6	0	0
					22,208	9	3

"I am thankful," writes a subscriber, "to those who uphold the Suffrage Banner in these days of distraction."

IMPORTANT.

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CHEQUES should be crossed.

POSTAL ORDERS should be crossed, and filled in N.U.W.S.S.

TREASURY NOTES should be treated like coins, and *always* registered.

If any contributions remain more than two days unacknowledged, please write at once to the SECRETARY, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

Please address letters containing money either to the SECRETARY, or to Mrs. Auerbach or Miss Sterling by name, *not* to the Treasurer.

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Already acknowledged	8,191 19 0	Oxford W.S.S., additional:—	
Lady Olivier	10 6	Miss Rogers (£1), Miss West	
Mrs. James Green	2 2 0	(£1 5s.), Mrs. J. Nell (2s.),	
Mrs. Tattersfield (2nd don.)	6 6	Collected in Charlbury	
Miss Bolton (monthly don.)	10 0	(£1 1s.), Women's F.S.A., per	
Miss Catherine Greville	3 3 0	Mrs. Phillips (£3), Small	
Miss Kempson	10 0 0	sums (8d.)	6 8 8
Mrs. G. C. Thompson	50 0 0	Miss V. Volkovsky	5 18 0
Per Miss M. A. Grant	5 0 0		
			£8,275 17 8

The Hon. Treasurer gratefully acknowledges, among other sums, Miss Bolton's monthly donation; £10 from Miss Kempson, who was for some time Hon. Secretary to the Committee; £50 from Mrs. G. C. Thomson; and £5, per Miss M. A. Grant, which has been collected by some school children for Dr. King Atkinson's personal use among the refugees. Further donations should be sent to the Countess of Selborne, or to Miss Sterling, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W. Cheques and Postal Orders to be crossed "London County and Westminster Bank, Victoria Branch."

DONATIONS TO THE N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

Owing to a reduction in the size of our paper this week, we are obliged to hold over the List of Donations to the Scottish Women's Hospitals, bringing the total up to £127,760 6s. 10½d.

The full list will appear next week, when THE COMMON CAUSE will again contain its usual number of pages, and we hope to publish some interesting news from the Units.

The Hon. Treasurer begs once more to thank all those who have helped and are helping, and will gratefully acknowledge further donations to help to carry on the work. Cheques should be sent either to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Greenock, or to Headquarters, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, and crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland."

Some Magazines of the Month.

THE ENGLISHWOMAN contains this month an article on "The New Franchise," by Miss M. Lowndes, in which it is maintained that the enfranchisement of women will be the best guarantee that the claims of the men who have fought in this war will not be forgotten. "You, who all over the country will bear your lot so uncomplainingly (we know you!)—we shall not forget you. When men neglect to be grateful—and gratitude is of all public virtues the most ephemeral—we shall remember. The women's vote shall be your sure shield, if your own be too scattered through the length and breadth of the land to be effectual."

"There is another consideration," continues Miss Lowndes, "related to this question of the fighting men: Britain may enfranchise them all if she will, but thousands from the ranks and from the fighting ships will never come home to vote. They end their national service in the fields of France and Flanders, in the East and upon the high seas, and bequeath to others the reaping of the rewards of victory. We have in trust from them the task for which they died; they have defended the country of their birth; they have upheld right and justice as they understood it, and to others it falls to ensure that the great and costly sacrifice shall serve high ends. This task is laid upon women as upon men: all must shoulder the vast responsibility. Where the men of the family return no more, the women are here to carry on their work and face their burdens, and upon their steadiness and faithfulness must largely depend the rapid recuperation of the country after the war is over."

"The country needs all her daughters in the hard struggle that is in front of her, and she will do well to endow them, as they reach maturity, with that freedom she would now so fain bestow on those who have died for her liberties. They will not abuse it."

THE WOMEN'S TRADE UNION REVIEW (the Quarterly Report of the Women's Trade Union League) contains a valuable article on the "Wages of Women Munition Workers," which includes some of the awards given

by tribunals. Questions in Parliament on the subject of "Women in Munition Works" are recorded.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT has an article on "Midwifery as a Profession," which should be of special interest to women who are starting to earn their living rather late in life. "In these days," says the writer, "when so many women past their first youth are seeking a profession, midwifery has many advantages," for the rules of the Central Midwives' Board make no promise as to age, except that the candidate for admission to examination must be over twenty-one years of age.

For "The Common Cause."

Comparatively few Suffrage meetings are held nowadays, and opportunities for direct propaganda work are so much curtailed, that members of the Union are not brought as frequently in close touch with each other as heretofore. It is felt that

"The Common Cause" has a specially important part to play in war-time in keeping the members and Societies of the Union in touch with one another and headquarters.

We wish to acknowledge with cordial thanks the further sum of £13 12s. 6d., making £266 16s. 2d. out of the £500, for which we appeal; and the very kind wishes and practical suggestions we receive from friends all over Great Britain.

"I am instructed to send you the sum of £2 as a small response to your appeal. We hope that THE COMMON CAUSE will continue; it is always so interesting and helpful."

"I enclose cheque for £1 10s as a donation (part collection of annual meeting) to THE COMMON CAUSE Fund. We hope it is only a first instalment, and that we may be able to send a little more later on."

"Enclosed please find cheque for £1, with all good wishes."

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Mrs. Dawson Clarke	10 0	Grubb (10s.), Miss Thompson	
Hikley W.S.S.	10 0	(5s.)	1 15 0
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Hitchin, Stevenage, and Dis-			
trict W.S.S.	2 2 0		£266 16 2

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The series of articles, specially written for THE COMMON CAUSE, by Miss Clementina Black, on *Problems of Housekeeping*, beginning with the number of August 11th, should find a large circle of interested readers.

THE WOMEN'S INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL.

We regret that we omitted to state in our last issue that the meeting held to discuss the new orders with regard to wages of women munition workers was convened by the Women's Industrial Council, which has been collecting and sifting evidence bearing on women's economic position.

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

North-Western Federation.

CARNFORTH W.S.S.—On July 20th, this Society held a Garden Party at Linden Hall, by the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Briggs. The weather was very fine and the party most successful, over 100 visitors being present.

After tea, Miss Geraldine Cooke spoke on the situation of the Women's Suffrage movement at the present time and the relief work undertaken by the N.U. Her address gave great pleasure to her audience, many of whom expressed their appreciation, and stated that they had received much benefit and enlightenment from it. Several new members were enrolled.

There was a stall for the sale of gifts brought by the visitors: £12 was realised, and goes to the funds of the Society.

A public meeting was held in the evening of the following day in the Co-operative Hall, when Miss Cooke again spoke. Her subject was "The Needs of the Nation and the Responsibility of Women." The Rev. J. H. Hastings presided. He made a sympathetic speech, as did also the Rev. J. B. Judge and Mr. Dugdale.

A collection of £4 10s. was made at the close of the meeting in aid of the Russian Refugee Fund.

The EALING AND ACTON Independent Branch of the L.S.W.S. organised a public meeting in the Town Hall, on Thursday, August 3rd, to consider the effect on the women's question of the proposed Registration Bill. The chair was taken by Professor di Sumichrast. He told the audience how he had undertaken to head a deputation to the Ealing Member, but the latter had refused to receive it, as he did not consider the moment was opportune, and—he was too busy. Mrs. Corbett-Ashby gave an excellent and enlightening speech on "The Political Situation"; she also pointed out how the sorrows and work of the war had broken down old distinctions of class and poverty and wealth, and the hope that the united efforts of men and women in the future might build up a new and juster world, and concluded by proposing the following resolution: "The Ealing Suffragists urge that no alteration of the franchise for men shall be made, under the provisions of the proposed Registration Bill, unless women are included." The motion was carried unanimously.

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The Next Step in Housekeeping.

II.—WHY NOT ORGANISE?

By MISS CLEMENTINA BLACK.

Last week's article endeavoured to show that the present unsatisfactoriness of domestic service arises principally from the continuance of conditions formerly existing in other industries but not outgrown. This week's will go on to suggest that, for the same reason, all our domestic processes, our buying and our cooking, are carried on wastefully and unsuccessfully.

At one time every woman was expected to spin and weave—as the word "spinster" remains to remind us; Healing, like pickling, preserving, and brewing, belonged to the Home and the Sphere of Woman, as cooking is still supposed to do; and no doubt the earliest, innovating women, who began ordering fabrics from a professional weaver, were reproached, as having a desire to "break up the home," exactly as I was reproached, the other day, when I suggested to a group of ladies that cleaning and cooking would be better done on a large scale under the control of one highly-trained expert than under that of fifty separate mistresses, not one of whom had devoted whole years of her youth to the intensive study and practice of domesticity—who were, in short, amateurs.

Technical skill belongs always to a trained group; never to a whole population. Not only did the professional weaver produce better textiles than the woman at home, who wove in the odd hours left by her dozen or so of other trades; but his work had in it—as the unprofessional weaver's could never have had—the germ of that evolution which has brought us those beautiful (and cheap) fine cotton stuffs that come from Lancashire and that most of us are wearing this August. Within the memory of people still alive, sick-nursing, also, was practically a universal—and therefore an untrained—calling, every woman being supposed able to produce on demand all the qualities requisite for the tendance of a sick person. There were, no doubt, better nurses than Mrs. Gamp, but it is noteworthy that Mrs. Gamp's contemporaries accepted her as typical. A war came—and Florence Nightingale came. She did not win the approval of ordinary officials, one of whom immortalised himself by writing that it was necessary to crush Miss Nightingale, and certain newspapers declared themselves shocked at her unfeminine proceedings. But the untrained nurse disappeared before her, and death-rates diminished. Instead of Mrs. Gamp and Mrs. Prig we have an army of women who know the use of the clinical thermometer and understand the meaning of medical cleanliness. Will any person now living deny that the public health has gained immensely by the change? or that the efficiency of the average sick nurse is not immeasurably higher than that of the average domestic servant?

Our household purchasing and cooking and cleaning are still at the stage in which sick-nursing was before the Crimean War. Each single house has its separate kitchen, its separate tools, its separate fire; each mistress orders her milk, bread, groceries, and all the rest separately, from some tradesman, and each lot is delivered and received separately at some house-door. On every single transaction there is an individual expenditure of thought, trouble, time, and book-keeping; and on many articles, such as meat and milk, an actual wastage—small, indeed, on each transaction, but very considerable in the aggregate. Amongst us we must waste in this manner enough to feed many scores more persons every day.

Nor is waste, bad as that is, the worst evil that attends our excessively individualist manner of buying our food. The single purchasing householder is a customer neither of sufficient power nor of sufficient knowledge to enforce a demand for unadulterated food, or to resist the imposition of inflated prices. Roughly speaking, we all pay more than we need for our food (and for almost everything else that we buy) and receive in return for our money worse goods than we ask for. But if fifty neighbouring households, let us say, could lump together their purchases of milk, butter, and cheese, they could at once obtain a contract, giving them both a considerable reduction in prices and a guarantee of quality. So with meat, with potatoes, fish, bacon, bread, and groceries. It would be exactly fifty times easier and cheaper to test the goods, while any complaint to a purveyor would appear to him fifty times as important. Moreover, his own position would be easier; he would be helped towards the great desideratum of all traders—i.e., steadiness of demand. Cost of transit would be diminished, labour would be lessened at both ends; the whole organisation of that little section of commerce would have moved one step forward.

The cooking, like the purchasing, of food is, in middle-class English families, wasteful and troublesome out of all proportion to the goodness of the results; nor is it easy to see how the general level can be much raised, unless by some radical change of machinery and methods. Every avenue of consideration brings us out at the same point: the domestic industry, in its various branches, has not followed the advance of other industries towards organisation, specialisation, group-employment, and highly developed machinery. It is still regarded as the occupation, not of selected persons, but of an entire sex; and almost the whole younger generation, both of employers and employed, is in revolt against its conditions. It certainly looks as though the household industry were being driven to follow the brewing, the laundry, the spinning and weaving, the tailoring and dress-making industries.

Such a change will be great, but not so great as some would-be reformers have been ready to assume. It will not mean that the householders who now dwell in separate abodes will be obliged to merge those abodes and dwell together for the future in a magnified barrack-household. The other industries, in leaving the home for the workshop, have not drawn the family after them, nor need this. Assuredly, most British people are entirely unprepared to pool their existences in any scheme of communal domesticity, and would steadily abstain from taking part in it.

The wholesale purchasing of food, however, would probably be more widely approved, especially by men, who are apt to view so many other domestic innovations with distrust. But when we step from theory to practice we perceive difficulties. Who will gather together the threads, undertake the correspondence, and superintend the distribution? If this one instalment of combined housekeeping is to stand alone, we shall hardly find a satisfactory answer, because the job would be one employing but a portion of any person's working hours, and therefore not carrying a full-time salary, while it would yet require a degree of business knowledge and exact punctuality scarcely to be expected from an amateur worker. As part of a highly skilled and highly paid expert's functions the duty would come, as the phrase is, all in the day's work, and be easily enough performed. And since service, no less than the management of food, needs reorganisation, the expert who supervises the one department might supervise also the other.

Some critical reader will probably remark that efforts at co-operative housekeeping for middle-class residents—generally in the form of common meals, but sometimes of a more far-reaching character—have frequently been tried and have failed. This is perfectly true; and an examination of the whole series of failures would probably indicate unmistakably the pitfalls necessary to be avoided on the path to success. I have observed a sufficient number of such experiments to be sure that they mostly split upon one of three rocks:

(a) Control of the catering, not by the residents for their own benefit, but by some *entrepreneur* for personal profit.

Again and again has some lady begun by supplying meals to a block of flats, has then, either from greed or negligence, or, more often, from lack of business knowledge, begun to supply worse ones, and has lost her customers and her capital. There must be no conflicting interests, nobody who could profit by the provision of inferior food, scantier meals, or worrying regulations.

(b) Management by amateurs instead of professionals.

It has not always been recognised that domestic management on a large scale requires as much training and capacity as commercial management; that it is, in short, a complicated and highly technical business demanding a good salary, and quite beyond the scope of an untrained person.

(c) Too much community of life.

People do not want to live together; they only want to have their food and service organised for them. It is evident that to be successful any experiment must steer clear of these three errors at least.

(To be continued.)

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The Hospital Work of the N.U.W.S.S.

A cablegram has been received from Dr. Agnes Bennett and Mrs. Harley to say that their whole party has arrived safely in Salonica. Dr. Bennett, it will be remembered, took out a new Unit of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals, consisting of two hundred beds, fully staffed and equipped, to work for the Serbian Army; and Mrs. Harley started at the same time in charge of a Transport Column, with ambulance and motor-kitchen. The Unit already at Salonica, under the French military authorities, is kept very busy, and the Hospital at Royaumont is working at high pressure.

Some of the patients at Royaumont have been amusing themselves by writing an account of their experiences. The following is from Marius Pelissier, a farmer in civil life, aged twenty-four, occupant of the Burma Bed:—

"We left Briancon on August 14th, 1914, to fight in Alsace, and arrived at Altkirch, where we were under fire for the first time. On the morning of August 19th, at the first shots we were told to advance, and we repulsed the enemy. We fought without ever stopping for six days, and ended by making the enemy retreat. We had great battles, and though the enemy were stronger than we, we forced them back to the Rhine and inflicted great losses on them. We left some troops to guard the position, and left Alsace on September 3rd to fight in the Vosges. There we fought many great battles, but we always held our ground and caused great losses to the enemy. Round about Senonnes we fought with great fury, we spent thirteen days in the woods without seeing a single house. There we took many prisoners; by springing suddenly out of the wood and charging through in a hand-to-hand fight, we reached and held a village beyond, which we found on fire. On September 27th we left the Vosges, and on October 1st fought a great battle at Arras, where I was wounded as we retreated from Monchy le Puits. I wasn't depressed by my wound; I got out of the line of fire, creeping along the walls, further and further away. I came back to the fighting on November 3rd and joined my regiment again, and we went back to the trenches in front of Neuville St. Vaast and were there all the winter, with lots of water in the trenches. We made an attack on May 9th, 1915, and I was wounded for the second time; but again I wasn't depressed. I was treated in a hospital at Morlaix, in Brittany, for my first wound, and for the second in the Hospital of St. Lazare; at the end of my little 'convalescence' I went back to my dépôt at Briancon, and then I went back to the front and rejoined my regiment at Trebiller, and we took the trenches on Cote 140. There we were in several bombardments, and after a battle fought with the greatest fury for five days, we took some of the trenches and returned to Villiers au Bois, which we left to return to the trenches. We were withdrawn soon after to Trebiller, and I was sent from there to the Hospital of Royaumont."

The occupant of the Scotsman "Edith Cavell" Bed, Eugene Boutet, a farmer, writes:—

"It was in the month of September, 1915, that I arrived at the front for the first time; I had not yet heard the thunder of the guns. At last, on the evening of the 26th, with several of my companions, we buried many of the unfortunates who had been killed on the 25th—they were all either without arms or legs, or their chests torn open—it was frightful. This was my first experience of the Labyrinth trenches. After, we rejoined our companions behind the lines for a short time. During the month of November we suffered many privations, bad weather (every day it poured), shells, mud and water up to our waists, at night we were frozen; it was, indeed, agreeable! On January 12th, about four o'clock in the evening, we exploded three mines, and then a violent bombardment began on both sides, so violent that it was like a perfect hailstorm all round us. The 63rd Infantry came to our relief that evening, as we were afraid of further attacks. After forcing the Germans to retire for several yards, they finally became masters of the conquered positions, but we inflicted heavy losses upon them. Later, we were relieved by a Scottish regiment, and I was sent to Royaumont, suffering from general debility. I hope soon to be able to continue my campaign."

The following is from a middle-aged peasant, Eugene Guedon, occupant of the Emma Curtis Bed:—

"I was called to the colours on the third day of the war, and left for the front on September 10th, and on the 26th was my first engagement at Ramponne, where we old Territoria's drove back the Boches, fighting them like devils, and at the end of

the day, when we were lying on the ground for two hours and the Boches could not advance any more, my corporal and I were lying down when we were covered by earth by a shell which burst just in front of us, and I found I was wounded in my left hand, but I went on fighting coolly in spite of my hurt, and on October 10th I was sent to the rear by the doctor and afterwards to another hospital at Doullance (Doullens) and then to my dépôt at Roche-sur-Yon, and I returned to the front on December 18th, 1915, and I was invalided again for the second time, and arrived at the English Hospital at Royaumont, where I am very well looked after, and I shall always think gratefully of these good English ladies.

"Vive la France et nos Alliés—and may our troops repulse the enemy at every point, with the help of God, who will give us peace and victory."

Georges Cailloux, occupant of the Ganfield Bed, writes:—

"When the war broke out I was doing my term of military service in the 23rd Section of the Army Service Corps, stationed at Nancy (Neurth et Moselle). I stayed at Nancy till September 10th, the day when Nancy was bombarded for the first time. Then I and my comrades were sent to Nantes to work in the military bakery and the Army Supply Dépôt. We worked there during fourteen months, often by night as well as by day. After that the officials in charge of the army bread supply decided that our bakery was too expensive because of its distance from the front, and moved it nearer to the firing line. So on November 1st we were sent to Boran (Oise) to enlarge No. 4 Field Bakery. Then, later on, I left Boran for the hospital at Royaumont, where I am at present under treatment. From the age of thirteen I have followed the trade of a baker at home with my parents."

The Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units in Russia.

The work of the N.U.W.S.S. in Russia is increasing in importance daily. In Petrograd, the Maternity Hospital, which is the starting-point for all Units, is always busy, and the Convalescent Home at Souida, established in connection with it, is proving of great value to members of our own personnel, as well as to women and children from the Hospitals. Dr. Stepney, who is in charge of the Children's Hospital in Kazan, has also been appointed as visiting doctor to two Polish refugees, which work, in conjunction with that in our own infectious and non-infectious wards, makes up a varied and interesting programme. The Galician Unit has arrived at Zaleschekiki, where they are rapidly "settling in" to a "large house in a huge fruit garden," formerly an Agricultural College and now a Military Hospital. The Austrians only left the district a few weeks ago. The motor ambulance which was despatched to Russia on August 4th with a cargo of clothing for the refugees will be attached to the Galician Unit, and promises to be of very great assistance in dealing with outbreaks of infectious disease in scattered places. At Tchistopol, where splendidly-equipped hospitals have been prepared for us, work is being rapidly organised, while at Isgara the out-patients' department has been dealing with 300 cases a day. Everywhere our work and those responsible for it are received with the greatest respect and admiration, while the Russian authorities with whom we are co-operating show their gratitude by doing all in their power to give us every possible assistance.

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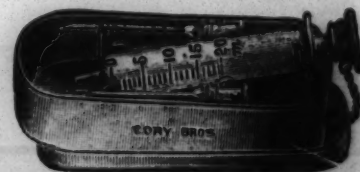


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ACTIONS: NOT DELAYS.

MADAM,—It is evident there can be no recess until these very important questions of franchise and registration are settled. Many people are becoming quite curious about what is going to happen. The Government is pledged to bring forward proposals which deal with these problems when they introduce their Bill for the prolongation of Parliament. If the Government can possibly adjourn these questions, they will do so, and it will need all the devotion and energy of people who believe in a real democratic franchise to see that these questions have their right and proper attention. Procrastination is very handy when serious problems have to be faced, especially when there are differences of opinion. The Government have been plainly told for a long time that what is required of them is actions, not delays and excuses. Attempts are being made to place the franchise upon a military basis, and once again leave the women outside. It has been promised when franchise changes were under discussion, the women's claims will have their right consideration. During the crisis, all kinds of nice things are being said about women and their adaptability. They have entered into many spheres of life and shown by their abilities that they are capable of doing great things. In the future there will be great problems, and without the co-operation of women many of the problems will never be solved at all. The present time is opportune for giving women (whose claims are long overdue) the human rights of citizenship and political equality. Every effort should be made to remind M.P.'s and Cabinet Ministers of their promises; also by getting resolutions adopted and sent along as early as possible. There is no time for delay; strange things are happening nowadays, which require vigilance.

E. TOWNLEY.

THE WISE COURSE FOR ANTI-SUFFRAGISTS.

MADAM,—*The Morning Post* of August 15th is somewhat fulsome in its flattery of the women of this country. "Thinking nobly of the women of this country—as after the experience of the last two years, they have deserved more than ever to be thought of—we decline altogether to believe that they would make their claims to the vote a bar to the enfranchisement of the men who have been risking life and enduring privation and suffering for them. To believe that would be to ignore all the sacrifices that the women have so cheerfully and splendidly made." But Suffragists are only human, and would naturally resent an extension of the register that did not now include them, as a very unfair and illogical proceeding. As to raising "dangerous controversies," which *The Morning Post* dreads so much, is it not more than probable that the Anti-suffragists will now feel they do wisely to keep out of further controversy? The Suffragists, for their part, must rejoice that the "Antis" have after all proved themselves educable with regard to the capacities of women, and they may be forgiven some amusement at the *naïveté* of the confession made by "Antis" on every hand that the change of opinion is the result of the last two years' experience!

It is an open secret that many Members of Parliament who formerly voted against the Bill for the enfranchisement of women are now wholly on the side of the women's cause, and not all the sophistries of *The Morning Post* shall prevail against this.

C. B. M.

WHY NOT CANVASS WOMEN "SLACKERS"?

MADAM,—In *The Times*, a few days ago, a woman correspondent makes the suggestion that the National Register should be used for the purpose of conscripting women on somewhat the same lines as the Military Service Act. The majority of women would, I am sure, welcome such conscription. Many are hesitating between conflicting claims. They read every day appeals to educated women to come forward for hospital work, labour on the land, the manufacture of munitions, or clerical work in Government offices; but they have their living to earn—often, too, relatives to support—and the work women are being called upon to do is, for the most part, badly paid. As *The Times* correspondent puts it, the supply of girls who can count on allowances from home to eke out their earnings seems to be exhausted. In thousands of families the women are now the chief or only bread-winners. They are helping to educate younger brothers and sisters; they may have to assist older brothers, fathers, or husbands injured in the war. Glad though they would be to nurse our wounded or help to increase our food supply, they do not feel it just that they should have to give up better paid work in order to undertake these duties while other women who have fewer claims upon them are not doing their share. They ask themselves, with a troubled spirit: "Am I really needed, or are there plenty to 'carry on'?"

How many women "slackers" there are it is difficult to tell. Certainly, one sees a fair number of women about who have an air of doing nothing in particular, and whose dress denotes the woman of leisure; but some of these may in reality be devoting a large part of their time to voluntary work. The number of women voluntary workers must run into thousands—perhaps over a million. There is no means of forming even an approximate estimate. The Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Associations, Charity Organisation Society, Infant Welfare Centres, Schools for Mothers, War Supply Depôts, Canteens for Soldiers and Munition Workers all have their contingent of unpaid helpers—to name but a few among many bodies doing national service—and women are also doing voluntary work in connection with the administration of the National Service Act, and in other ways less obviously a "woman's job" than those mentioned above.

Why should not a canvass of women be organised on the lines of the measures taken to bring in recruits for the Army before the passing of the Military Service Act? It would then be ascertained how many women are really free to undertake national work, and many who are at present shirking might be awakened to a sense of duty. If such a canvass revealed the fact that there really are a number of "slackers," we could then have recourse to compulsion; and women, like their brothers, would have to "do their bit" or show good reason to claim exemption.

A. M.

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Comparatively few Suffrage meetings are held nowadays, and opportunities for direct propaganda work are so much curtailed that members of the Union are not brought as frequently in close touch with each other as heretofore.

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The Political Sacrifice of Women.

By MISS ELEANOR RATHBONE.

The cause of Women's Suffrage has made a step forward during the past week. It is something—no one who knows the record of the Prime Minister on Women's Suffrage can deny that it is something—to have brought him to the point of declaring to the House of Commons and to the nation that the women have made out "not only a reasonable, but, I think, from their point of view, an unanswerable case" for being included in any franchise that is based on war service, and that they have a special claim to be heard upon the problems of industrial reconstruction after the war which so vitally affect their interests. "I cannot think that the House will deny that, and I say quite frankly that I cannot deny that claim."

That is a significant admission, and we are grateful to Mr. Asquith for the generous terms in which he acknowledged that women, so far as opportunity has been accorded to them, have rendered "as effective service in the prosecution of the war as any other class of the community." But he was giving fresh proof of what women have always noted, his failure to enter into the minds of women and to understand their point of view, when he committed himself to the statement that women are "perfectly content, if we do not change the qualification of the franchise, to abide by the existing state of things." It is true that we—we of the National Union and of the Societies acting in co-operation with us—have consented, not only in relation to the particular problem which has arisen this week, but ever since the beginning of the war, to "postpone to our sense of the national need of unity our undiminished resolve to obtain for women the full rights of citizenship, which are more than ever necessary, having regard to the problems of reconstruction after the war." But "perfectly content"! In what position, in effect, does the announcement of the Government's intentions with regard to the Registration Bill leave us? We have won from the Prime Minister the acknowledgment that the claim of women to be heard in the problems of the reconstruction is unanswerable, and we may take it that this represents the almost, if not quite, unanimous sense of the Coalition Government and of the House of Commons, certainly of the political party in it to which the Prime Minister belongs. But, as the matter is now left, we have not only no security that this unanswerable claim will not be indefinitely set aside, but there is, in fact, a grave danger that the end of the war will leave the question of reconstruction in the hands of a Parliament which has no women amongst its constituents, while it is keenly sensitive to the influence both of the capitalist class and of the trade unions. How can we forget that the former have never scrupled to exploit to the utmost of their power the labour of women, and that the latter have hitherto been so successful in securing the exclusion of women from nearly all the more skilled and better paid occupations that only the great emergencies of the war have revealed to the country the value of the reserve of labour and ability which it has hitherto wasted. The war will be no sooner over than the question will arise: What is to become of the hundreds of thousands of women now engaged in occupations regarded before the war as the exclusive preserve of men? Is the solution of that question to be referred to a tribunal upon which only two of the three disputants are represented.

Nor is it only upon questions specially affecting their sex that women have a right to be heard. Are they not as deeply concerned as men in securing the conditions of a stable peace? Have they no interest in the future economic and fiscal system of the country, in its relations with its colonies, with those who are now its allies, and, not least, with those who are now its enemies? Must the influence of women, the traditional qualities of women, count for nothing in repressing any spirit of national vindictiveness and in bringing about saner and sweeter relations between

the men, women, and children of the earth who acknowledge a common brotherhood. We live in times when sacrifice is demanded from every member of the nation, and we think that women have shown their willingness to bear their share of the common burden of sacrifice, not only in personal matters, but in their politics and their public life. But we cannot forget that we have a cause to keep which is not ours alone, but is the cause

of generations of women and children yet unborn. We must not jeopardise the future of that cause, and while we may for the moment consent to step aside, we have a right to demand that the postponement of our claim shall not be indefinite, but that assurance shall be given us, that it shall be settled at the earliest possible moment, and, at the latest, before the problems of final settlement and reconstruction are entered upon by the nation.

Women's Suffrage and the Press.

We believe that our readers will be glad to have for future reference a survey of the press comments on women's claim to citizen rights, made during a momentous week. Several articles of special interest, which have been unavoidably held over, will appear in our next issue.

The Future Basis of the Franchise.

[The following leading article, reprinted, by kind permission, from "The Observer" of August 13th, 1916, is given almost in extenso for those of our readers who have not the opportunity of seeing this paper, one of the most important of London weekly journals.]

The Government propose, it is said, to carry their Bill extending the life of the present Parliament while content merely to "table" their proposals dealing with Registration. So long as the Coalition will shoulder definite responsibility and deal with the whole question of the franchise thoroughly, soundly, and promptly, we would give them, subject to a time-limit, a period to mature their measure. An indispensable condition would be that the present practical disfranchisement of a large part of the nation should be remedied well in time to prevent any possible danger of an election in connection with the terms of peace being taken on a defective register. There must be no resort to the weak device of handing the matter over to a committee. Mr. Asquith and his colleagues must have courage, faith, and insight; they must banish outworn prejudices; they must set themselves to find for the Constitution a basis which shall realise a full, sane theory of that democracy which has become the only possible form of government for this country.

* * * *

There never can be a more favourable opportunity. The old issues which divided us have shrunk into insignificance. Though, doubtless, there will be broad divisions of opinion among us in the future, the lines will not be drawn as in the past. Any attempt therefore to "gerrymander" the franchise on lines of party advantage would be manifestly futile. That being the case, the existence of an Administration which contains members of both whilom parties affords an unequalled opportunity to broaden the basis upon which government in this country rests and to call in the assistance of those in the field and at home whose right to be consulted has been proved by the war, which is a war not of armies only but of nations. We need to invoke the fresh forces without whom the present struggle could not be waged and won to aid in the settlement of the many new problems which will confront us in the future.

* * * *

Only a few puzzle-headed people can imagine that we are going back to where we stood in August, 1914, and to take up our national life again at that point. To begin with, the whole relation between the moral and material side of life has been altered. In Imperial affairs, international affairs, social, industrial, political matters, our standard of values has changed. The havoc wrought by war among our young men; the noble response of our women to the calls made upon them; the paramount need of attention to the care and education of children—all these things teach us that there can be no going back to the sleepy and selfish days of laissez-faire if the candlestick of our nation is not to be removed from its place. To deal with these grave questions aright we want the brain-power, the will-power, the moral force of the whole nation behind the Government, not those of a section only. And, moreover, these questions will not wait for settlement. We must set to work upon them the very moment the world returns to the ways of peace.

* * * *

We cannot then begin to overhaul the constitutional system and spend months, perhaps years, in haggling over the precise degree of worldly prosperity and house tenure which make a man a reliable citizen. We do not want to have to mend the legislative machine after hostilities. We shall require the machine to be in smooth running order by the end of the war. We shall want it to work at top load. The war has pointed out

to us the way we should go. The nation has found its soul. It has stood forth a true democracy in action, impelled by the call of right and justice. It has proved itself collectively far greater and nobler, on the whole, than those it elected, to speak in its name before the old world was overturned. These, perhaps with some excuse, have had the old shibboleths ever ringing in their ears. Away with the "obese, unchallenged old things which stifle and overlie us"! It is a new world on which the dawn is breaking, and in this new world the nation, which has proved itself sound at heart, must forge its own destiny.

* * * *

Some of the questions which will arise are already being asked. It is very astonishing that the first of these should concern the right of sailors and soldiers to vote. As to that point we cannot easily understand how any thinking man can for one moment hazard objection. The nation is in arms. Its best and worthiest are in the field. Are they to be prevented from making their voices heard on questions which concern them more vitally than anyone else because they have broken their occupation, or because they may not be able to comply with all the requirements of the Ballot Act? They are buying the future of the Empire and the nation with their blood. Who has so much right to decide what the future shall be, so far as it is in human power to decide it? No decision arrived at without the votes of the men in arms could be regarded for one single moment as a national decision, and a Parliament so elected would be rightly subjected to a Pride's Purge when the hosts return once more to "Blighty." If politicians at home should monopolise for a critical season the trust which they hold for the absent manhood of the nation, they would be brought to a more drastic revision and a deeper downfall than they think. The soldiers and sailors have not only an equal right to the franchise. They have the first right. This is irrespective of age. Whoever is old enough to fight is old enough to vote.

* * * *

That, however, is a passing issue, though it is one of the gravest importance. Of greater permanent importance is the question of the right of women to vote. They have earned it. We say so frankly. In the past we have opposed the claim on one ground, and one ground alone—namely, that women, by the fact of her sex, were debarred from bearing a share in national defence. We were wrong. Women have borne, and are bearing, their full share, in the hospitals, in the munition factories, in all the departments of life in which they have taken men's burdens upon their shoulders in order to release men for the war. And more yet in the deep, uncomplaining heroism with which they are bearing their sorrows and giving their all. Then can we any longer deny to the women who have wrought and suffered, and who have worked well, even if they have not suffered, the right to share in the future of the nation whose fate is entwined with their very heart-strings? We cannot. The State needs their aid, and they have proved their capacity to give it. The time has come to give a new meaning to Democracy; to make it a real thing, the true voice of the nation, and not of a part, more or less arbitrarily and often foolishly selected. Once for all, let us simplify the thing. Let the right to vote be given to every man and woman who has attained years of responsibility: let us say, five-and-twenty, for then they have arrived at an age to put away childish things. The nation, by its bearing in two years of war, has earned this right to be trusted with its own destinies.

Women's Co-operation Absolutely Needed.

"The Woman's Question," writes Mr. A. P. Nicholson in *The Daily News* of August 11th, "has not been overlaid by

the war, as some of our statesmen are too prone to think. On the contrary, I hold that the war is making it an issue vital to the nation.

"Many problems, we are daily reminded, will have to be settled in the war's aftermath, and not a few of these directly concern the employment of women and their relations to the men's trade unions. Even if, by a development of women's trade unions, the women who have been drawn into industry to help the nation could be organised in sufficient strength to hold their own against the men's trade unions, we should not want to see this fight between the sexes. What power behind, legislative or administrative, will have due authority to settle what may be unprecedented industrial disputes between men and women, if our Government does not rest on women's votes as well as men's? Whatever arguments in favour of enfranchising women had force before the war will have more than double the force after."

"To rebuild, to restore, to re-create our society—for that all must co-operate, freely and generously. We shall need absolutely the sincere co-operation of our women in this national effort. Industrial and political questions affecting women will arise at every turn, at once, on the cessation of war. The loyal co-operation of many women cannot be expected if, after all that has now taken place, they are flouted. A grudging spirit will be useless on either side. The women must have votes, and enter our political and administrative life. Those to whom once this seemed a revolution to be feared, have seen a good many revolutions more affrighting in the world since August, 1914. We are used to upheavals, and we shall have to accustom ourselves to greater changes in society than this."

Mr. Nicholson urges that women must be enfranchised before the work of reorganisation after the war actually begins, in order that they may be in a position to help in it, and that the franchise must not be given in a haggling spirit, "weighed out like pounds of cheese," but on a democratic basis. "It is the duty of the Government," he declares, "to appoint a proper inquiry to take counsel with Mrs. Fawcett and the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and with others, as to this part of the social reconstruction. It is linked up with the question of the Register, which the Government will probably postpone for a time. The Register, when made, should be a Register of men and women, and it is work for the winter meeting of Parliament. The Cabinet's centre of gravity is, and has to be, the War Council; but this fact is not considered a bar to other work of social reconstruction, and it should be no bar to the women."

The House Cannot Tolerate any Evasion of Women's Claims.

In a letter to the editor of *The Daily Chronicle*, published on August 12th, Mr. H. W. Massingham expresses a hope that *The Chronicle* will use its influence "to save the Government from the great act of injustice and unwisdom it will commit if, in the form of a Registration Bill, giving some facilities to existing soldier-voters, it adds a new element of men-voters without enfranchising women."

"We all know," continues Mr. Massingham, "that Franchise Bills settle franchise questions for some years. Such problems cannot be re-opened every Session or so. Parties are not prepared for continued re-adjustments of the suffrage. If we establish a substantially new suffrage now, the question will slumber again. And this we shall do if the Government are preparing to act in the sense of Mr. Law's hint of a reduction in the qualifying period to three months."

"But this will be a cruel wrong to women, and a great offence to that large body of men who are converted to the suffrage. This House of Commons has always been a suffrage House of Commons. It could not come to a settlement because the Government gave it no help in that direction. But its general view was clear. It would never now tolerate a fresh postponement and evasion of the claim that it has always considered to be just."

"Such a Bill therefore is not practical. But it would also be a piece of petty and perverse statesmanship. National service has been decreed for the period of the war. Without the women's contribution to that service it could never have been effectual. The links of war-service are unbroken; women are part of our armies; and they have shown just the kind of ability which their critics denied to them, and which may fairly be held to constitute a good claim to political rights. The women's cause has been completely vindicated. They have won the badge of capable citizenship. It is for the State formally to satisfy the demand for the strengthening of democracy which most of us can now see must come as the result of woman suffrage."

"The one argument for the Coalition which really appeals

to the people is that it unites them. The argument has not the strength it once possessed. But it would be entirely defeated by an unfair and uncandid dealing with the women's claim."

From the "Manchester Guardian."

The Manchester Guardian suggests that every soldier and sailor and every munition worker might have a right to be registered as a voter in the place of his last or usual residence in the United Kingdom, and that voting papers could be issued and a vote taken in the trenches, but that proposals for altering the basis of the franchise "would at once raise in its most acute form the question of women's suffrage":—

"To give votes to all soldiers and sailors is in effect to introduce manhood suffrage and something more, since many of them are under age. Moreover, it would be obviously unjust to limit this extension of the franchise to men actually serving. Why should a short-sighted man or one suffering from some slight physical defect who has volunteered and been rejected, and is perhaps doing more important war work at home, be refused a vote which must be given not only to the volunteer soldier but to the pressed man? And why are women workers for the war, whose service has been whole-hearted and invaluable, to be refused a like privilege? The same difficulties arise in only a less degree in connection with the proposed three months' qualification. This would have to be applied all round, and would bring in millions of new voters. We have no objection, provided the women are included. . . . Why should military service, which is only one of the functions of a citizen, be differentiated from all others as carrying with it the right to a vote? Were military service still voluntary the vote might be regarded as its appropriate reward. But military service is no longer voluntary."

From the "Daily News."

A leading article in *The Daily News*, August 14th, on the "Right to Vote" urges that discussion of the Registration Bill must stand over till after the recess; "for to attempt to rush so controversial a measure into law at this stage of the session would be intolerable. Among the questions to be considered are the claims of the women:—

"That factor in itself provides a valid reason for postponing any final conclusions on the Register till after the war, unless, indeed, so happy a solution can be contemplated as a general recognition of the title women have earned by the share they have borne of national service and national sacrifice. Even if that is too much to hope, there is no contesting the logic of the protest against a franchise reform which by adding some millions of men, and of men only, to the Register would accentuate the grave sense of injustice under which women are already labouring."

From the "Daily Chronicle."

The Daily Chronicle, August 14th, contends that "extensive innovation should be avoided till the war is over."

"If Parliament decreed any large extension of the franchise to men without dealing with Women's Suffrage or redistribution, it would make it much more difficult for the advocates of Women's Suffrage or redistribution to get the existing order of things settled in their favour after the war. Consequently, no Bill which makes serious innovations in one of these subjects, can avoid being one-sided unless it innovates in all three. And the hedge of controversies with which all three are surrounded makes that almost certainly impracticable. The proposal to give a vote to every man who had joined the Army or Navy may be most praiseworthy in itself. So may be the proposal to reduce the qualification period from twelve months to three in the interest of the munition workers. But the friends of Women's Suffrage are clearly right in contending that to adopt either course (or any course making an enormous addition to the male electorate) in a Bill from which Women's Suffrage was excluded, would in effect be an anti-Suffragist policy, which Suffragists would be bound to fight."

From the "Westminster Gazette."

"We take it as the basis of any discussion that may take place on the Registration Bill now to be presented that there will be no extension of the franchise while the war lasts," says *The Westminster Gazette*, of August 15th. "The Prime Minister definitely takes this position, and he admits that the claim of women to be considered, if the basis is altered for the male voter, is not only 'reasonable' but 'unanswerable.' It would be premature to take this as an announcement of Mr. Asquith's personal conversion, but undoubtedly he uses language upon the war services of women which suggests that he and large numbers of those who think with him will approach this question

with a new mind when the war is over. Herein we think he expresses the prevailing sentiment."

The Daily Mail, August 15th, holds that the Government should have forced the whole question of the franchise boldly. "A great opportunity has been missed. A grave injustice to our soldiers and sailors and to the war workers of both sexes has been committed."

The Daily Express, under the heading "Votes Deferred," says it may be taken as a hopeful sign from the woman's standpoint, that a Prime Minister who has been a life-long opponent of their cause should admit the justice of their claim. We think a great deal more of Votes for Women than we did three years ago. . . . When the war is over, there will be, we hope, a better understanding of aspirations which have our free sympathy.—*The Daily Graphic* calls Mr. Asquith's statement with regard to the women's position "indeed a remarkable admission from so strong an opponent of woman's suffrage as Mr. Asquith." "But," it continues, "there can be little doubt that he expressed the general opinion of the country."—*The Daily Sketch* argues that the Prime Minister's statement "is a striking expression of opinion from so formidable an anti-suffragist as the Premier."

The Northern Daily Telegraph, in an article, "Registration and Representation," says:—The women's claim to the Parliamentary franchise has been strong all the time; it is made perfect by reason of the splendid service rendered during the war. One of the strangest of anomalies is that women who can vote for Town Councillors are denied the right to vote for a Member of Parliament. It is not easy to be patient with men, Cabinet Ministers or party politicians, who obstruct an act of simple justice and proved expediency. Parliament taxes women just as it taxes men, and expects and exacts service from women just the same as it does from men. The duties of citizenship are fulfilled by women to the uttermost. The continuance of the sex disqualification would be a cruel crime, and blind folly as well."

The Liverpool Daily Courier says: "The final proof that women will be included in any new Franchise Bill was offered yesterday when he admitted that the suffrage deputations had presented an 'unanswerable case.' It is now impossible to extend the franchise without admitting women."—*The Nottingham Daily Express*: "Not only by their war-work, but by their patience in suffering and their endurance in self-denial, the women of this country have more than proved their case for the extension of the franchise to them."—*The Ulster Guardian* says: "It is to be hoped that a service franchise which overlooks the services of women will not be sanctioned by the House of Commons."

Northern Men ask Mr. Asquith to Receive a Deputation on Women's Suffrage.

The following letter was sent to the Prime Minister by the Executive of the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage:—

"We shall be glad to know if you could make it convenient to receive a small deputation of men from the North who represent a very large body of public opinion which desires to see the women of the nation placed on political equality with men. We think that as the electorate is not in a position to vote upon the question and give its mandate at the polls, that you are probably unaware what a complete turnover of public opinion in favour of women's suffrage has taken place among former opponents to the enfranchisement of women. We know of no other way of getting a hearing except by laying our views as responsible citizens before you, and hope that, as you are receiving various deputations on other subjects, you will kindly accord us a like privilege."

In answer to this request the Prime Minister replied, regretting that in the present pressure of business he could not find time to receive a deputation, but expressing willingness to have an expression of the Federation's views in writing. The Federation, in a further letter to Mr. Asquith, points out that the time is ripe for Woman's Suffrage, and that a delegation has already journeyed twice from Scotland and been denied a hearing on both occasions. The letter concludes: "We feel sure you would not wish to treat citizens of Scotland with less respect than you accord to others, and a deputation of Northern men will journey South next week and hold themselves in readiness to call upon you at any time you care to mention."

[Owing to pressure on our space, we are obliged to hold over a letter to Mr. R. K. Gaul, Hon. Sec. of the Berwick-on-Tweed Branch of the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage, from Sir Francis Blake, in which he states that if he becomes member for the Berwick-on-Tweed Division of Northumberland, he will not lose sight of the question of Women's Suffrage, of which he is now more than ever in favour.]

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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The following resolution was passed at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Union on August 15th, after hearing Mr. Asquith's statement on the Registration Bill:—

"That in view of the national position as set forth by the Prime Minister in his speech of August 14th, 1916, the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies will abstain from pressing for an amendment to include women in the new Registration Bill, provided that the question of altering the basis of the franchise be not raised by other amendments or alterations to the Bill.

"In deciding on this course the National Union is postponing to its sense of the urgent national need of unity, its undiminished resolve to obtain for women the full rights of citizenship, which are more than ever necessary, having regard to the problems of reconstruction bound to arise after the war."

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Miss Annie Lane		2 6	Mrs. Aukland		10 0
Mrs. Stephen Spring Rice		1 0 0	Mrs. Russell Scott		3 3 0
Mrs. S. Renton		5 0	Mrs. D. A. Wilson		2 0 0
Mrs. J. S. Turner		1 0 0	Mrs. Dowson		2 0 0
Miss Elinor H. Leresche		2 6	Miss L. Bullen Smith		10 0
Mrs. L. Stephens		1 0 0	Mrs. A. Gutteridge		1 0 0
Miss E. M. Greg		1 0 0	Miss A. T. Lumsden		1 0 0
Mrs. Fennell		5 0	Miss Hildyard		5 0
Mrs. Clement Templeton		1 0 0	Mrs. F. Manning Prentice		2 6
Rt. Hon. Jonathan Hogg		10 0 0	Mrs. P. M. Stevenson		2 0 0
Mrs. Napier Sturt		10 0 0	Miss A. R. Bonham		5 0
Miss G. M. Tolson		5 0 0	Mrs. Aneurin Williams		3 3 0
Mrs. Binns Smith		1 1 0	Mr. Wm. Henderson		10 0
Miss E. E. Webster		10 0	St. Albans W.S.S.		13 0
Mrs. Osmaston		3 0 0	Mrs. Savery		5 5 0
Miss Elizabeth Woods		3 0 0	Scarborough W.S.S.		5 0
Miss Beryl D. Blackman		5 0			
					£2,297 9 9

IMPORTANT.

Lost Letters Addressed to the National Union.

CHEQUES should be crossed.

POSTAL ORDERS should be crossed, and filled in N.U.W.S.S.

TREASURY NOTES should be treated like coins, and *always* registered. If any contributions remain more than two days unacknowledged, please write at once to the SECRETARY, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

Please address letters containing money either to the SECRETARY, or to Mrs. Auerbach or Miss Sterling by name, *not* to the Treasurer.

DONATIONS TO N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	126,067	12 1 1/2	C.P.F. (5s.), Kettering W.S.S.		
Per Miss Craigie: Mrs. Hotham			(£3 3s.), Mrs. Carpenter		
(Ambulance Fund)	20	0 0	(10s.), Mrs. J. Sutcliffe (7s. 6d.).		
Anon.		10 0	Mrs. Auerbach (£5)		21 17 0
*Per Mrs. Gunn: Miss Stewart			*Per Miss Bury: Proceeds of		
(18s.), Mrs. J. Hay (6s. 6d.)	1	4 6	Jars and bottles collected by		
The Misses White		1 0 0	children of Earliston Public		
Ramsay Smith, Esq. (Royau-			School, per A. A. Burt, Esq.,		
mont), towards 2nd year of			Headmaster (£3 7s.), Em-		
"Tweedale" and "Neid-			ployees, Messrs. John Honey-		
path" Beds	5	0 0	man & Son, Cupar (15s.).		
Miss M. F. Gilmour		10 0	*Employees, Messrs. Ireland		
Miss Margt. E. Hannah (Ser-			& Wishart, Abernethy (18s.		
bia)	1	0 0	6d.), Munition Workers,		
*Per Miss Etta Shankland:			H.M. Naval Ordnance Depot,		
Messrs. J. P. Young & Co.	10	0	Dunfermline (£25 18s. 6d.)		28 19 0
*Per Active Service Fund,			*Staff, girls, and friends, Ware		
N.U.W.S.S.: Miss Catherine			Grammar School, per Miss		
Davies (£1 1s.) (Serbia), Mrs.			Brough, Headmistress		10 0 0
Davidson (10s. 6d.) (Royau-			*Newcastle-on-Tyne Com. for		
mont), Mrs. Armitstead (£10)			S.W.H., per Miss Hunter		10 0 0
(Royau-mont) (not ear-			*Per Miss Morrison, Hon.		
marked), A Member of Oxford			Treas., Glasgow and West of		
and Lampsfield W.S.S. (15s.),			Scotland W.S.S., Joint Com.		
Miss M. I. Pember (5s.),			for S.W.H.: Airdrie Academy,		

per Miss Paterson, proceeds of Entertainment to name "Airdrie Academy" and "Vigilantibus" Beds (£50), (4th Serbian Unit), Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Fyfe, 2nd year of "Hugh and Alan" Bed (£50) (Salonika), Sanitary Inspectors Staff, Glasgow Corporation, per P. Fyfe, Esq. (£21), A Friend (£20), Result of Dr. Hutchison's Meeting at Motherwell, per Mrs. Jackson (£16), Employees of Messrs. Yarrow Ltd., 1st donation to name "Sheela" Bed (Royaumont) (£12 10s.), Anon. (£11 1s. 7d.), Pupils and Staff, Knowetop Public School, per Mrs. Jackson (£10), Miss McOnie (Serbia) (£10), J. Lowden Hume, Esq. (£10), "Ayr and District W.S.S. (monthly) (£1 17s.), Tennis Tournament, Castle Douglas, per Mrs. Campbell (£8 14s.), "Employees of Messrs. Wm. Beattie, Dennistoun Bakery (monthly) (£6 13s. 3d.), Dykehead and Shotts Co-op. Society, Ltd., per D. Crichton, Esq. (£5 5s.), Employees, Drimlithie Station and Friends, per W. Smith, Esq. (£5 0s. 4d.), Employees, Jas. McHaffie & Sons, Ltd. (£5), And. Bain, Esq. (£5), "Thos. McConnell, Esq., U.S.A., per Messrs. Robb & Crosbie (£5), Railway Employees, Motherwell District, per Mr. Hathorn (£4 15s. 5d.), "Office and Warehouse Staff and Yard Employees, Messrs. P. & W. McLellan Ltd. (monthly) (£4 9s. 6d.), Employees and Friends, Brodick Pier, per Mr. Wm. Inglis (£3 3s. 7d.), Miss Keith (£3 3s.), Employees, Messrs. Wm. Simons Ltd., Renfrew (weekly) (£4 14s. 11d.), Employees, Messrs. H. Archibald & Co., Wishaw (£2 2s.), Golf Competition, Blackwaterfoot (£2 1s. 6d.), John Scott, Esq. (£2), Employees, Scottish Tubal Co., Ltd., Garnkirk (£2), Employees, Perth Station (Caly. Ry.) (£1 18s.), Employees, Hyde Park Foundry Co., Finnieston (£1 15s. 1d.), Proceeds of Cookery Classes in Alloway and Prestwick, per Mrs. Cochran (£1 12s.), Employees, Messrs. Arch. Baird & Son, Ltd. (£1 11s. 9d.), Employees, Kilmarnock G. & S.W. Ry., Goods Dept. (£1 10s.), Staff at Dumfries Station, G. & S.W. Ry. (£1 6s. 8d.), Staff at Airdrie Station, per Jas. Frame, Esq. (£1 3s. 6d.), Mrs. Parker (£1), Scottish Malt Distillers, Ltd. (£1), Mrs. McCance (£1), J. Kirkwood, Esq. (£1) (Serbia), J. M. (£1), Messrs. Gemmill & Co. (£1), Girvan Station (G. & S.W.) (18s.), Dundee Station (Passenger Dept., Caly.) (17s. 9d.), Miss Fulton (13s.), "Employees, Messrs. Alex. Jack & Co. (12s. 3d.), G. & S.W. Ry., Kilmarnock Station (12s.), Caly. Ry. Glenboig Station (11s. 6d.), Mrs. Matthew Mitchell (10s.), Miss J. Turnbull (10s.), Mr. Hume (10s.), G. & S.W. Ry. Prestwick Station (10s.), G. & S.W. Station, Port-Glasgow (10s.), Employees, Frew's Foundry (10s.), Miss Moore (10s.), J.D. (10s.), Miss Shaw (10s.) (Serbia), Caly. Ry. Banknock Station (Goods) (8s.), Calderbank Station (8s.), G. & S.W. Cook Street Station (8s.), Cunninghamhead Station (7s. 6d.), Callander Station (7s. 4d.), Kilwinning Station (7s.), Employees, Galvanisers, Ltd. (7s.), A Friend (7s.), Rankin Station (6s.), Cumnock Station (5s. 6d.), Dalmellington Station (5s.), Rev. W. A. Kyd (5s.), Messrs. Adam Knox & Sons (5s.), Craig-hall Iron Works (5s.), Kin-buck Station (4s. 6d.), Racks Station (4s. 6d.), Kirklee Station (4s.), Kinfauns Station (3s. 6d.), Addiwell Station (3s. 6d.), Nurse McGhie (2s. 6d.), Lulib Station (1s. 3d.)—Donations earmarked for Miss McIlroy's Motor Kitchen: Mrs. McGregor (£10), Miss Edith McIlroy (£6), Mrs. Spiers (£5), Prof. J. H. Teacher (£5), Head Office Staff, Nobels Ltd. (£2 13s. 10d.), Misses Laurie (£2), Miss M. C. Morrison (£2), Miss Scott (£1 1s.), Dr. Janet Higgins (£1 1s.), Mrs. Ross (£1), Mrs. Patterson (£1), Chas. B. Milligan, Esq. (£1), Mrs. Jas. Taylor (10s.),

£ s. d.

Miss Kate Comrie (2s.)— (£38 7s. 10d.); Total (£355 5s. 6d.); less expenses (£18 5s.) ... 337 0 6
Proceeds of Concert by Pupils of Findochty Public School, per J. Yuill, Esq. ... 3 10 0
*Per Mrs. Young, further for "Trinity Heroes" Bed from Trinity Shopkeepers ... 2 2 6
Per Miss Flora Welch, from sale of flowers ... 1 0 0
*Per Miss Etta Shankland: Equitable Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Paisley ... 2 2 0
*Per Mrs. Robertson: "Employees of Messrs. Glenfield & Kennedy (£16 7s. 9d.), "Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (£2 2s. 5d.), M.H. (£1) ... 19 10 2
*Per Mrs. Wood: Mrs. Parker, for 2nd "Clovell" Bed (£25), Lady Maclay (£5), Staff at Kilmacolm Station (10s.) ... 30 10 0
*Per Miss Etta Shankland, further instalment to name "Greenock Girl Guides" Bed: Flowers sold in July, per Mrs. Edward Wilson (18s. 6d.), per Miss Marion Stewart (£1 8s. 3d.), per Miss Nan Fisher (£1 15s. 2d.), Flowers sold in Y.M.C.A. Rooms, July 22nd (£3 17s. 8d.), Flowers sold in Y.M.C.A. Rooms, July 29th (£5 12s. 5d.)—Total (£13 10s.); less expenses (18s.) ... 13 2 0
*Per Mrs. Wilson, Hon. Treas., Edinburgh W.S.S.: Employees, Messrs. John Cran (£2 4s.), Part proceeds of Infant Room Concert in Corstorphine Public School (£5) (Serbia), "Employees, Messrs. Duncan Flockhart & Co. (3rd and 4th subs.) (£10), Employees, Messrs. MacTaggart, Scott & Co. (10th and 11th subs.) (£4 10s. 1d.), "Women Clerks Accountants Dept., G.P.O. (£2 6s.), Portobello Co-op. Society (£1), Edinburgh-Leith Gas Commissioners (£2 12s. 4d.), Messrs. Munro & Co., Restalrig (£2 16s. 7d.), Levensat Industrial Co-op. Soc. (£1), "Employees, Messrs. McVittie & Price (£10), Employees, Messrs. Peebles & Co., Ltd. (£2 3s. 3d.), Messrs. J. J. and E. L. Walker (£2 2s.), "Employees, Messrs. Bertrams Ltd. (£4 14s.), Berwick-on-Tweed Branch N.U. Railwaymen (£1 0s. 3d.), Merchiston Tennis and Bowling Club (10s.), Miss Beck (£1), "Messrs. Brown Bros., Ltd. (£6 17s. 3d.), Mid-Calder Branch, N.U. Railwaymen (£1 13s.), Proceeds of New-tongrange Prize Band Performance (£15 10s. 8d.), Mrs. Clendinnen (£1) (Serbia) ... 77 19 4
Miss Stirling (£5) (Dr. Inglis Unit), Maj. Robert Stirling, R.A.M.C.T. (£5) (Ambulance Column) ... 10 0 0
*Per Mrs. Middlemass: Proceeds of sale of fruit and flowers ... 61 5 4
*Per Mrs. Chapman, Hon. Sec., Manchester and Dist. Fed., and D. Drummond Fraser, Esq., Hon. Treas., Withington and Didsbury Committee, to name bed (£55 11s. 6d.), Manchester Civil Servants (£10), Miss Violet Hewitt (£2), Mrs. Webb-Peplow (£1 1s.) (£68 12s. 6d.) ... 225 0 0
Kosovo Day collections in Dirliton and Kingston Schools, per A. D. Wallace, Esq. ... 19 6
*Per Miss Isabella Kerr, Sec., Greenock Committee for S.W.H., St. John's Church (£3 5s., collection for Kosovo Day), A Friend (5s.) ... 3 10 0
C. and A. L. ... 2 0 0
G. C. L. ... 1 0 0
*Sheffield W.S.S., per Mrs. Helliwell, Hon. Treas. (Serbian Units) ... 2 10 0
Miss Crichton ... 10 0
Per Miss E. M. Major, King Edward's High School for Girls, Birmingham (£20, being proceeds of Musical Play) (Serbians) ... 50 0 0
A. J. Heatley, Esq. ... 1 0 0
*Lady J. G. Murray ... 1 0 0
*Domestic Staff, St. Mary's School, Melrose ... 10 0
Miss M. R. Thomson ... 2 0 0
"Blackwater, Blairgowrie" ... 1 0 0
*Hugh Roberts ... 10 10 0
Miss Wright ... 1 0 0
Mrs. McLintock ... 2 2 0
Mrs. Gillespie ... 1 0 0
*Per Miss Bury: Miss Ramage ... 2 6
*Per Mrs. Blair: "War Guest," further towards "Mak Merry" Beds ... 4 0 0
Mrs. A. W. Black ... 10 0 0
Further Donations from Kosovo Day Collections sent to Headquarters:—
Tiroran Side School, Mull (10s.), Glenhead School, Loch-

£ s. d.

winnoch (14s.), Torrison School, S. Ronaldshay (5s. 3d.), Gleneagles and Tullibardine Schools (11s. 8d.), Saughtree School, New-castle (8s.), Kirkston School, by Hawick (£1), 3 Members of Hillhead Ch. (£3), Invershin Public School (5s.) (Sutherland), High School, Kelso (£1 12s. 1d.), Wallacestone School, Polmont (£1 13s. 2d.), Dunipare School Board (£1 10s. 11d.), Academy, Kilsyth (£1 6s.), Sunnyside School, Alloa (£3 9s.), Langroft Public School (£2 5s.), Pittenweem School (19s. 3d.), New Lanark School (18s. 9d.), Marybank School, Muir of Ord (8s.), Monquhitten School (£1 2s. 6d.), Public School, Bridge of Allan (10s. 4d.), Collection in Withorn Parish Church (£1), Netherdale School (2s.), Public School, Fettercairn (10s.), Dull School Board (£3 17s. 2d.), Aber-chinder Higher Grade School (£1 15s. 14d.), Westhill Public School, Skene (10s. 9d.), Clarkston Parish Church (£2 18s. 3d.), Public School, Kinloch, Rannoch, Pitlochry (2s. 6d.), East Kilbride School Board (£2 16s. 9d.), South School, Paisley (£6 4s. 9d.), Killiechonan School, Rannoch Station (3s. 6d.), Collected, Pitlochry Parish (£4 7s. 9d.), Brabster School, Wick (10s.), Knockbreck School, Waternish, Skye (£2 15s.), Inkmann School, by Paisley (5s.), Newbridge Public School, Ratho (16s. 3d.), Liff, Barvie, and Invergowrie (£4 17s. 6d.), Tarland and Migrie Churches (£4 1s. 9d.), Garlogie Public School, Skene (4s. 3d.), Upper Cabrack Public School, by Rhynie (£2), Tarradale School Pupils (£1 16s.), Brackmuir-hill Public School, Stonehaven (12s. 6d.), Kirriemuir School Board (8s. 10d.), Guardbridge Public School (15s.), Haywood School, Lanark (16s. 6d.), Pencaltland School (£5 2s. 9d.), West Public School, Prestonpans (16s.), Tarbet School Board (£2 12s.), Midcalder Public School (10s. 10d.), Bank of Dallegles Schools (19s. 6d.), Teachers and Pupils, Burgh and Grange Schools, Alloa (£15 10s. 2d.), Denny Public School (£4 6s. 3d.), Braidwood Public School (11s.), Crossroads School, Dunnet, Thurso (10s.), Whitekirk School (7s. 6d.), per Rev. W. Paterson, Manse, Strathmiglo (£2 13s. 5d.), Public School, Selkirk (7s.), Uphall School (£4 5s.)—Per Glasgow W.S.S.: Park School Children in Oxford Hostel (£15), Bellabouston Parish Church (£10), Airdrie Academy (£9 8s. 6d.), Belmont Parish Church (£6 18s. 2d.), John

£ s. d.

Morrison, Esq. (£5), Laurieston Parish Church (£4 4s. 6d.), Greenfield Public School (£3 10s.), Hills Trust Public School (£2 6s.), Victoria School (£2 12s.), Kelvinside Academy (£1 10s. 6d.), Sale of Goods (£1 9s. 6d.), A Friend (£1 1s.), Rt. Rev. Bishop Campbell (10s.), Rev. W. A. Kyd (5s.) (£63 15s. 2d.), Braehead School, Carnwath (14s. 8d.), Bristo Public School (2s. 6d.), Tillicoultry School (£1 17s. 10d.), Public School, Auchinleck (£2), Springside School, Kilmarnock (£1 12s. 9d.), Howwood School, Renfrewshire (£5), Larkhall Schools (£5 19s. 9d.), Carnwath Parish Church (£4 13s.), Carnwath School (11s. 6d.), S. Queensferry Public School (£9), Schools in Dornoch District (£1 2s. 0d.), Exhibition and Sale, Auchterarder (£20 8s. 6d.), Anon. (6s. 5d.), Sent to Hon. Treas., less expenses (£27 7s. 9d.) ... 700 14 5
"Galen" ... 5 0 0
Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson, Paris, per Miss Hamilton, S.W.H. Royaumont, to name "Stevenson" Bed (Royaumont) (£25 in Paris Bank) ... 25 0 0
*Per Miss E. H. Brown: Thomas Black, Esq. (£1), Employees, Messrs. Thos. Black & Sons (£4 4s.), "Staff Smith's Warehouse (£3 10s.) ... 8 14 0

£ s. d.

Supplementary List of further Donations, per Manchester and District Federation, per Mrs. Chapman, Hon. Sec. for Corsica:—

£ s. d.

Women of Hyde (per Flag Day) (£34 5s.), to name one Bed for 12 months and one for 6 months; Buxton W.S.S. (£32 4s. 6d.), H. M. Gray, Esq. (£20), Manchester Women Civil Servants (£20) (to complete 2nd 6 months of Bed), Chinley and Chapel-en-le-Frith W.S.S. (per Jumble Sale) (£15), to name Bed for 6 months; Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme W.S.S. (£13 11s.), Salford Corporation Tramways (£10 13s. 9d.), "Manchester (£8 6s.), Oldham W.S.S., to complete Bed for 6 months (£5 12s. 6d.), Overseers of South Manchester (£5), "F. A. Bruton, Esq. (£5), Miss A. J. Partridge (£5), Miss Jane Partridge (£5), Romiley W.S.S. (£3 3s. 6d.), Marple W.S.S. (£2 11s.), Staff of Salford Secondary School (girls) (£1 10s. 6d.), Mrs. S. E. Childs (15s.), "Manchester University Sale (13s. 6d.), Anon. (9s.), Mrs. Dean (5s.), Leigh W.S.S., per Miss Naylor (5s.), Withington and Didsbury Committee (£55 11s. 6d.), to name Bed; "Manchester Women Civil Servants (£10), Miss Violet Hewitt (£2), Mrs. Webb-Peplow (£1 1s.), Previously acknowledged (£2,752 2s.) ... 225 0 0
Total ... £127,760 6 10d

The Hon. Treasurer begs once more to thank all those who have helped and are helping, and will gratefully receive further donations to carry on the work. Cheques should be sent either to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock, or to Headquarters, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, and crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland."

[Owing to pressure on our space we are obliged to hold over the remainder of this week's list of donations, bringing the total up to £128,283 2s. 0d., and also the latest list of Beds named.]

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What Some of our Societies are Doing.

West Lancs., West Cheshire, and North Wales.

CHESTER.—On July 25th a small meeting of members and friends was held at the Holborn Café, under the presidency of Mrs. Thomas. Mrs. E. V. Burns (Liverpool W.S.S.) spoke on the present critical position of Women's Suffrage, and explained the necessity for action in view of the proposed alteration in the basis of the franchise. A resolution has been sent up by the Chester W.S.S. to their member, Sir Owen Philipps, to this effect: "That any alteration of the basis of the franchise, whether founded upon services rendered to the country by soldiers and sailors and munition workers, or on any other grounds, must include the removal of the sex disability and the granting of the vote to women, in recognition of the spirit and competence with which women have successfully discharged their full share of the national obligation."

LIVERPOOL.—In conjunction with the Conservative and Unionist Suffrage Society, the Church League, and the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, a very successful public meeting was held at the Picton Hall, on July 27th, in support of women's claim to the Parliamentary vote after the war, and greater representation on local bodies. Mrs. E. Stewart Brown presided. Mrs. Fawcett, after referring to the valuable work which was being done by Units organised by the National Union, proposed a resolution: "That this meeting, holding that a Parliament elected upon a register from which women are excluded, is wanting in moral authority, and does not represent the authority of the nation at large, urges Parliament, if called upon by the Government, to alter the basis of the franchise to include women in the electorate."

She pointed out that women would not now have raised the question of Suffrage had not the immediate enfranchisement of soldiers and sailors, on the ground of service to their country, been suggested; but that women could not allow their service to the country, widely acknowledged as it had been, to pass unrecognised, politically. There was a change in public opinion on the point. Many public men—amongst them Lord Derby, who had been formerly "anti"—were now in favour of Women's Suffrage.

In seconding the resolution, Miss Eleanor Rathbone called attention to the part played by women during the war, and pointed out that without Women's Suffrage only one side in the industrial questions arising between men and women would receive political expression, and that also the widows of our soldiers dead for their country would have no political representation whatever. The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mrs. Allan Bright then proposed the further resolution: "That as women are vitally concerned in the problems of reconstruction after the war, this meeting demands the adequate representation of women upon all local authorities and all bodies dealing with questions of reconstruction." This resolution was seconded by Mrs. Raffles Bulley. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Fawcett, proposed by Mrs. Macdonald (Catholic Women's Suffrage Society) and seconded by Mrs. Wallace, of the Church League for Women's Suffrage, was passed. Copies of the resolutions have been sent to the Prime Minister, the President of the Local Government Board, and the local members.

Oxon, Bucks, and Berks.

ASCOT.—A Flag Day was held on July 1st in Ascot and neighbourhood (including Sunninghill, Sunningdale, Winkfield, and Cheapside), and was a great success, enabling the Society to send £100 to the Serbian Relief Fund and £50 for the further upkeep of the "Ascot" Bed with the Serbian Unit of the Scottish Women's Hospitals now in Corsica. One of the members of the Executive Committee opened a shop in High Street, Ascot, for the day, where "Serbian" sweetmeats, &c., were sold, and also an interesting loan collection of curios from the Balkan States was shown. The shop realised £25, and was the centre of an interested crowd of spectators and purchasers all the day. Among the attractions of the day were children, who paraded with their decorated pets: a donkey, two Shetland ponies, and a rough-haired terrier. All worked hard for the cause with great success. Lessons on Serbia were given in the National and many of the private schools of the district,

and the latter were visited by the flag-sellers with very satisfactory results, as were also the Military Hospital, the Ascot War Hospital Supply Depot, and the Victoria Nursing Home.

MAIDENHEAD.—On Tuesday, July 11th, a garden meeting was held at Elindene, Cookham-road, by kind permission of Dr. and Mrs. Underhill. The chair was taken by Mrs. St. Hill, and a most interesting and inspiring address was given by Mrs. Robie Uniacke on "War-time Problems and How they Affect Women." After touching on the widespread activities of the various Suffrage Societies throughout the war, the speaker impressed on her hearers how necessary it was that women-Suffragists should use their influence and powers in order that the next electoral campaign should find them included in the political Register. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Stepney Rawson. Tea was served in the garden, and six new members were enrolled.

West Riding Federation.

BRADFORD.—The annual meeting of this Society was held on the evening of June 30th, at the Girls' Patriotic Club. There was a very good attendance of members. Mrs. Burnham was in the chair, and Miss Geraldine Cooke spoke to us on the "Importance of Suffrage Work," and reminded us that our Suffrage aims must not be lost sight of, even in war time and while working on relief schemes. The balance-sheet and report of the Society showed that we were in a very flourishing condition, and practically we had lost very few members, except by removals. We ended a very pleasant evening by a concert and a play, acted by the Suffrage League of Honour members, who meet weekly at the office. The collection amounted to £2, and it was decided to send £1 10s. to THE COMMON CAUSE FUND.

SHEFFIELD.—A successful garden party was held (by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. J. Wycliffe Wilson) at East Hill, on Saturday, July 22nd. The speakers were Dr. Lilian Chesney, who gave a graphic and racy description of her experiences with the Scottish Women's Hospitals in Serbia; and Mrs. Leathes, who spoke eloquently on the general Suffrage question. An unusual piquancy was lent to the proceedings by the fact that Dr. Chesney is (or calls herself) "a rabid Anti."

A large number of members and friends were present. A collection was taken on behalf of the Scottish Hospitals and for general expenses; and several new members were enrolled.

HUDDERSFIELD.—The Monthly Executive meeting was held yesterday afternoon. Mrs. Josiah Lockwood presided, in the unavoidable absence of Miss Siddon. Letters were read from the Prime Minister, Mr. Lloyd George, and Sir Edward Grey acknowledging the receipt of a resolution on the proposed Registration Bill.

After the business, a study-circle was led by Mrs. Lockwood, who read a paper on "War and the Woman's Movement." The paper dealt with the attitude of the feminists against all war, urging that arbitration should in all cases take the place of arms. Women were always against armed forces, and should be heard in the settlement after the war.

Mrs. Studdard proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Lockwood for her paper, and to Mrs. Rennards for her hospitality. This was seconded by Mrs. Laycock, and supported by Mrs. Bates, and carried unanimously. It was arranged to hold the study-circle meetings monthly.

Kentish Federation.

HERNE BAY.—On Saturday, July 15th, a Lamp Day was held in this locality, organised by Mrs. Cowper Field. Some sixty collectors were in the streets, and they sold little lamps similar to those sold in London. The result of their efforts was £27 15s. 10d. Several donations were received by the Treasurer, Mr. George Cursons, J.P., who is a member of the Herne Bay Women's Suffrage Society, which brought the total up to £42 0s. 8d. Taking into consideration the smallness of the population, the amount realised was thought very satisfactory. The proceeds were in aid of the local work-parties and work-meetings, organised by the members of the Herne Bay W.S.S., who have supplied large quantities of garments, comforts, and hospital appliances to various hospitals, among whom are the Scottish Women's Hospitals in France, Serbia, and Russia.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—An attempt to promote some cohesion amongst the Friends of Women's

Suffrage has been made by asking them to join in a vegetable-growing competition, which included potential members. The entrance-fee was one penny. The entries were not very numerous, and many seeds, especially onions, failed. Still, through the kindness of Mrs. Salter Davies, Hon. Sec. of F.W.S., a pleasant little function took place in her pretty garden on August 2nd. Some really fine potatoes, turnips, lettuce, and radishes were exhibited, judged by an experienced gardener, and small prizes were awarded. Those specimens, such as beans and beet, that were not ready, will be adjudged later on.

The occasion was furnished for a little Suffrage talk, as the women sat round the tea-tables on the lawn; several Friends' cards were signed, and the new leaflet introduced. It served also to emphasise the national need of the cultivation of vegetables and medicinal herbs, to which Miss Mosely, Hon. Sec. of the Kentish Federation, referred in presenting the prizes. Miss Alice Jones, Hon. Sec. of the Suffrage Clothing Depot, 18, Crescent Road, entertained the gathering with recitations; and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mrs. Davies for her hospitality.

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